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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CÁRDENAS).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 16, 2021.

I hereby appoint the honorable TONY CÁRDENAS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

REAL 21ST CENTURY GROWTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, November 15, at about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, President Biden signed into law the bipartisan infrastructure bill, which, for a lot of us who have been serving around here, was an incredibly gratifying and important moment in terms of really finally getting this country ahead of the curve in terms of critical investments for infrastructure.

Last Wednesday night, I held a telephone townhall on the infrastructure bill because the House had passed the measure on November 5. We had 7,000 people on the call who were either on the phone or streaming in. Lots of questions, lots of excitement. Connecticut is obviously a State that has been settled really since the origins of our Nation and has some of the oldest infrastructure in the country.

Mr. Speaker, I would note, however, that some of the questions that came in said, Well, only 10 percent of the bill is for hard infrastructure, for surface transportation. What's up with that?

And I was joined by Don Shubert, who is the executive director of the Connecticut Construction Industries Association, who was quick to jump into the call and point out the fact that if you step back and look at this bill, it is a continuation of the last infrastructure bill which passed in 2015, the FAST Act, which passed on a bipartisan basis and was signed into law by President Obama, and was extended twice by President Trump.

Again, that baseline was kind of keeping the lights on for infrastructure. It was not, however, getting us ahead of the curve in terms of the changes that are happening in other countries around the world. And with the new money that was included in the bipartisan infrastructure bill, we are seeing a huge increase, both in roads and bridges, but also in rail, also in the electric grid, also in broadband, which is now critical for any economic development for small communities to be able to tell companies and businesses that they have high speed internet.

So what does that mean in terms of the State of Connecticut? It means that the roads and the bridges—which again is a big focus—got a 32 percent increase in terms of the State's allotment, which will flow through the State's Department of Transportation.

Some of the old bridges in our State—again, the largest vehicle bridge is the Gold Star Bridge, which is part of the I-95 corridor, has been getting a pounding since it was built in 1943. The northbound lane right now, quite frankly, is so compromised that large trucks are basically not given permits to travel across that bridge. Again, it is part of the Interstate Highway System. It is a \$250 million job.

This bill will make sure that that funding is there. It is a project labor agreement, so it is going to be union labor and apprenticeship programs incorporated into the work that is there.

Again, there are countless other small bridges, medium-size bridges in the district. There is a swing bridge over the Connecticut River in East Haddam, Connecticut, that was built 108 years ago that breaks down, interferes with boat traffic going up and down the Connecticut River, that now has got full funding and is slated for repairs.

Also, in terms of the rail piece, which is separate from roads and bridges, \$66 billion, a big investment in the Northeast Corridor. Across the Connecticut River, there is the Old Saybrook Bridge, which is 114 years old. Anyone who sails underneath it and sees, again, how fragile the supports are for that bridge, it is screaming out for repairs. That project now will be fully funded as a result of this legislation.

The Coast Guard Academy, which is in New London, Connecticut, is going to get \$53 million to repair the barracks and the dormitories. Again, anyone looking at the age of those buildings, which some of our future leaders for the Coast Guard are going to school there, is getting a long overdue upgrade. As well as a city pier in New London where the USS *Eagle*—which is the proud sort of flagship of the U.S. Coast Guard—will now be able to tie up to modern infrastructure that is there.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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There is a host of other smaller projects in Tolland and Windham Counties that are included in this package. Again, I would emphasize that the total funding amount is not what some of the stuff that is out there in the media in terms of small fractions for hard infrastructure. The fact is when you incorporate the FAST Act baseline that was passed in 2015, along with the bipartisan infrastructure funding on top of it, the roads and bridges is close to 40 percent of the package. It also includes increasing and boosting the electric grid; which as we convert to electric vehicle passenger traffic, as we convert to offshore wind, which is going to be transmitting voltage to the coastline, we need to have a stronger grid.

All of that is good jobs that is going to be, again, built-in, baked-in over the next five years. It is not going to create inflationary pressures because of the fact that, again, it is spread out over a period of time.

It was a great day for our country. We came together on a bipartisan basis to get this done and now we are ready for a real 21st century growth that will be beneficial to all communities large and small.

AMERICA'S ECONOMIC FIRESTORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I can't for the life of me understand why my Democrat colleagues insist on passing this multitrillion-dollar monstrosity of a tax-and-spend bill that not only I, but the American people believe will be an economic and societal disaster on so many levels.

Mr. Speaker, the American people have spoken in countless polls and surveys and elections, not just in Virginia, New York, and New Jersey, but in my State of Texas where House seats have flipped from Democrat to Republican for the first time ever. As recent as last week, a Democrat changed parties to Republican because they cannot explain the current policies that are destructive to the ends of recovery and support the American people's freedom and our way of life.

They said as clearly as they can: No more Big Government control over our lives. That is what they said in Virginia. No more socialist spending our country into bankruptcy. No more growing the government at the expense of our freedoms and our children's future.

Mr. Speaker, Virginia, a blue State, one-third of the electorate said the economy was their number one issue. Biden won that by 10 points. They voted for a Republican Governor. Two-thirds of the American people in recent polls have said that the Biden economic plans are bad and they have no confidence in his policies. They connect his policies with the current economic conditions. The majority of

Americans attribute the inflation to Biden's failed policies, just like they do the disastrous border and the debacle in Afghanistan and in the generic ballot. The generic ballot among registered voters, there is a 10-point spread, if the elections were held today, between Democrats and Republicans. That is the highest in 40 years ever recorded.

The American people are speaking and they are crying out to their country's leaders: Relent. Relent. But they have made the connection between the policies and the disastrous effects in their lives and in the life of their country.

Enhanced employment benefits, in other words, paying people more to be on unemployment than to be at work, coupled with wasteful partisan multitrillion-dollar spending packages under the guise of COVID relief have created an economic firestorm, runaway inflation.

Real wages, 7 of the 9 months this President has been in office, have gone down. Real wages have gone down. There has been an inflation surge to the point of double-digit inflation in the last month, which have put us, over the year, at a 30-year high.

Gas prices are up 50 percent. We are almost a million jobs short of what President Biden promised as a result of that blue State bailout that he called COVID relief. This is the solution that the Democrats are offering.

Let's raise prices even more and lower wages by taxing the American people.

Let's further extend our recession by chasing jobs overseas and putting the highest tax rates in the developed world on the job creators of the United States of America.

Let's burden small businesses with higher taxes and less people willing to work.

Let's drive labor participation further down by removing the work requirement.

Let's trap more people in poverty and the cycle of dependency on government by removing the incentives to work.

Let's wipe out 20 or 30 percent of the workforce by thrusting a Big Government mandate that is unconstitutional, overreaching, and would destroy any prospects for recovery.

Mr. Speaker, this was supposed to be about income inequality, but if you read the tax bill—and I don't know how my progressive colleagues can look the American people in the eyes with a straight face and say that this is not a swampy, special-interest package of the century, because they have tax breaks for the wealthy by raising the SALT deductions. They give tax breaks to green industry, to unions, to plaintiffs' attorneys, to media corporations. That is all legitimate. That is all true.

If you look close enough, that is what this is about. Not to mention they stuffed the stocking with early Christmas presents for progressives and political allies of the Democratic

Party—amnesty for 8 million people while our southern border is melting down; unionization of every employee, every employer, every State in the country; Obamacare subsidies for people making hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Mr. Speaker, the list is too long. I implore my Democrat colleagues to relent and stop this. Let's get back to work on behalf of the American people.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF BATOUL ALFADAWI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the memory of Batoul Alfadawi, a resident of Dearborn Heights in Michigan's 13th District.

Her life was tragically cut short at the age of 6 years old from a hit-and-run. Batoul was a sweet girl with a beautiful soul. She had a huge enthusiasm for life and a joyful spirit. Batoul loved learning, spending time with her family, and playing with her friends. I know her parents and six siblings will miss her immensely.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to the memory of Batoul, and please say a prayer for her family.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL ALEXANDER JEFFERSON

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Jefferson whose heroic service as a Tuskegee Airman in World War II was recognized earlier this week in the rededication ceremony of Jefferson Field in our district.

I was proud to be there in his presence. It was also his 100th birthday. He is a graduate of Detroit public schools, like myself. Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Jefferson pursued a military career and completed pilot training at the Tuskegee Army Airfield.

As a fighter pilot with the Red Tail, 332nd Fighter Group 301st Fighter Squadron, his unit escorted bombers headfirst into the action, bravely providing protection from vicious enemy aircraft. They never lost a single plane.

Mr. Speaker, on August 12, 1944, Jefferson was shot down and captured by the Germans and kept as a prisoner of war for 9 months. Liberated by American forces on the 29th of April 1945 and discharged from Active Duty in 1947, he retired from the Reserves in 1969.

After serving, Lieutenant Colonel Jefferson then became a science teacher in Detroit, where he then retired in 1979. At his ceremony, my teacher in high school came up to me and said he was very proud of the accomplishment I had. He said, Guess what, Lieutenant Jefferson was my science teacher and my elementary teacher, and now seeing you up there, I know that he was part of creating that seed and creating more leadership and really strength within the city of Detroit.

Mr. Speaker, he has received numerous awards for his bravery, and I am

truly honored to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Jefferson on his celebration of service to our country. It was his 100th birthday. We sang happy birthday to him, and he danced along with many of us, even in the crisp cold in the city of Detroit, in the middle of the field.

□ 1015

RECOGNIZING HASSAN JABER

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize numerous contributions of Hassan Jaber to the communities of Wayne County, Michigan, as he retires after more than 40 years of service to ACCESS.

During his time in ACCESS, Hassan Jaber has been a leader in expanding its programming to include more than 100 platforms in 10 locations to assist residents across the region.

He has created partnerships locally and nationally to advocate for policy initiatives to fight bigotry, advance civil rights, and create a better quality of life for immigrants and other vulnerable populations.

I know Hassan Jaber personally. With every obstacle, he never wavered in leading with compassion and keeping the community at the center of his work.

Hassan Jaber's leadership and forward-thinking approach have solidified his legacy as a community leader. His mentorship helped me grow into the passionate advocate I am today.

Please join me in recognizing Hassan Jaber's work on behalf of residents of Michigan's 13th Congressional District and southeastern Michigan as we wish him well on the next chapter in his life.

RECOGNIZING EDWARD LONGENECKER ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CLOUD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Edward Longenecker and wish him a happy 100th birthday.

Mr. Longenecker is a World War II veteran who has a steadfast love and devotion to God, his family, and his country.

He is from my hometown of Victoria, Texas. Today, we honor him for his service to the United States Army Air Corps as a radio operator and nose gunner on the B-24 bomber in the 451st Bomb Group, 726th Squadron.

During World War II, on July 14, 1944, he and his fellow airmen traveled to Petfurdo, Hungary, for their 29th combat mission. What they expected to be a routine mission was anything but when they began to receive anti-aircraft fire that took out two of the aircraft's engines. From the nose gunner position, he received word that they were dropping elevation very quickly. The pilot made the call urging everyone to jump. Mr. Longenecker headed to the flight deck to retrieve his parachute.

On the flight deck, he saw his ball gunner about to jump and gave him a good luck salute. Then Mr. Longenecker jumped.

Everyone who jumped before him was captured, but he landed on top of a hill and began taking on heavy fire from Yugoslav soldiers that were sympathetic to the Germans.

He made his way to a nearby forest line, crawled under a briar bush, and stayed under that bush until nightfall. That first night, he slept near a lake. The second night, he stayed in a pile of hay where he could hear a group of people playing the guitar and singing. To him, this was one of the most beautiful sounds he had heard simply because there wasn't a sign of war anywhere.

On the third day, he ran out of the wood cover and met a young boy. This boy took him to a nearby village where he ate, bathed, and rested. Eventually, Mr. Longenecker was taken to a house where an American lieutenant was waiting. Upon his safe arrival, he was informed that he had miraculously walked through an active minefield unscathed.

It is incredible to think how his life could have been cut short, but it has lasted these 100 years.

After serving in the military, Ed Longenecker became an electrical engineer and lived a long, full life, married to his wife, Marie, for 59 years until she passed in 2006. He has two daughters, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. I know many of them, and they are a precious, honorable family, truly a legacy.

Edward Longenecker is a true American hero, and we are indebted to him for his great service to our Nation. It is an honor to celebrate his life today. I hope he has a wonderful 100th birthday.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF NORMA FINK ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary trailblazer, philanthropist, and public servant in south Florida, Mrs. Norma Fink, on her 100th birthday.

Born Norma Mager, in the Bronx, New York, on November 16, 1921, Norma has spent a century giving back to those around her. In 1942, Norma graduated from New York University with a bachelor's degree in economics and a minor in geology, the only woman to graduate with that honor at the time.

Shortly after, she put her degree to work by joining the Department of War to assist with the military supply chain while her husband, Robert Fink, served in our Nation's Armed Forces during World War II.

After the war, Norma worked in her father's bakery, Mager and Throne Bread Bakery. During this time, she became enamored with jazz music and

made friends with many local musicians who were involved with the civil rights movement. Inspired by their work, Norma began contributing the money she made to support civil rights initiatives in the South. This became an ongoing passion of hers.

After moving to Plantation, Florida, in 1972, Norma continued her legacy of supporting the enrichment of the community by joining the city's Parks and Recreation Department, where she still works at the age of 100.

Additionally, she began spending her time and money supporting local charities. Following the loss of her daughter, Marian, to breast cancer in 2002, Norma dedicated herself to helping others suffering from cancer.

Norma's spirit of persistence, generosity, and service to her community is an inspiration to all of us in south Florida. It is an inspiration to generations of Americans.

To honor her legacy, the city of Plantation, her home for nearly half a century, has designated Norma Fink Day in honor of the oldest and longest part-time employee in that city's history.

I join the entire south Florida community in wishing Norma Fink a happy 100th birthday surrounded by her loved ones. I thank her for her dedication to bettering the lives of everyone in south Florida.

MAKING HISTORY WITH BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE BILL

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the historic day yesterday in this Nation's history.

The legislation that the President signed into law was overwhelmingly bipartisan in the Senate, and it was overwhelmingly supported by the American people. Why? Because it is the largest dedicated bridge investment since the construction of the Interstate Highway System. It is the largest investment in public transit and passenger rail since the creation of Amtrak.

It expands broadband to every corner of our country so that every American has access to reliable, high-speed internet.

It secures clean water, making the largest investment in clean drinking water and wastewater infrastructure in American history.

This is what we have been clamoring for, in a bipartisan way, as long as I have been serving in this Congress. Yesterday, President Biden delivered. He did it with the bipartisan support of the Senate and the overwhelming support of the American people.

Unfortunately, in this Chamber, my colleagues on the other side view any sort of bipartisan effort like that as too difficult to support, too difficult to stand with the Republicans and Democrats in the Senate, too difficult to stand with Democrats here, and too difficult, apparently, to stand with the America people in moving forward with a massive infrastructure plan that will help strengthen every community across our country.

Mr. Speaker, I am so proud that this House joined with the Senate in sending this legislation to President Biden.

Yesterday, as I said, was a historic day as President Biden signed the infrastructure bill into law and as we move forward to the Build Back Better Act.

Again, I note for my colleagues here, this too is so popular throughout America because everyone understands that if we invest in the American people, if we take the kind of action that is necessary to lower healthcare costs and childcare costs, provide universal pre-K, and make investments to combat climate change that we will be making America more competitive on the global stage, something that my colleagues in this Chamber often talk about.

I hope that they will recognize the opportunity to do exactly that in passing the Build Back Better Act when we vote on it this week.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF BERNARD MARIE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Bernard Marie, who recently passed away at the age of 82.

As a young 5-year-old living in Normandy, France, Marie often told the story of being rushed into his basement by his grandparents in the early morning of June 6, 1944.

It was there that his family sat for 16 hours in the dark without food or water before his mother emerged from the cellar to hug an American GI after realizing their village had finally been liberated from German occupation.

Marie said that witnessing the D-Day invasion instilled in him a lifelong respect for World War II veterans, and he was forever grateful for those who secured his country's freedom.

Later in life, when he moved to the United States, he began hosting an annual luncheon to honor local World War II veterans wherever he was living to show his support for them and their families.

When he settled in Roanoke, Virginia, in 2021, he brought the event with him. These luncheons served as a place for veterans to come together and share their experiences—some for the first time.

Aside from the luncheons, Marie helped raise money for the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford. He sat at the bedside of servicemembers when they were ill. He even worked to award the French Legion of Honor medal to nearly 150 American veterans. He said that his goal was not only to honor these heroes but to ensure they were never forgotten.

I was terribly saddened to learn of Mr. Marie's passing. He meant a great deal to western Virginia, and he will not soon be forgotten.

IMPACT OF INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT ON NEVADA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Nevada (Mrs. LEE) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the tremendous impact that the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will have on my home State of Nevada.

Nevada was ground zero for the pandemic, and its effects were especially felt by the travel and tourism industry, which employs tens of thousands of Nevadans and brings in the bulk of the State's revenue each year.

Now that President Biden has signed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act into law, our leading industries in Nevada and Nevada families can take part in the economic opportunities and the thousands of jobs that this bill promises.

Nevada is slated to receive \$2.5 billion for highway investments like the I-15 corridor between Las Vegas and LA, the I-11 corridor between Las Vegas and Phoenix, and \$459 million for public transportation.

This means that not only can Nevada families get to work and school safely and more efficiently but that millions of our visitors each year can more easily experience everything that our State has to offer.

Nevada will also get a minimum of \$100 million to expand access to broadband across the State, meaning that no Nevadan will be left behind.

Nevada also has been ground zero for the effects of the climate crisis as we continue to face the effects of severe drought.

With the passage of my water recycling infrastructure bill, included in this, Nevada will now be more equipped to mitigate the effects of climate change and ensure that our communities have continuous access to safe, clean drinking water for years to come.

Nevada is only able to reap all of these benefits because Congress was able to put politics aside and work together to come up with sensible solutions to create a better future for our Nation. We cannot stop there.

It is critical that we continue to work side by side to pass the Build Back Better agenda and make sure that American families don't just recover from this pandemic but that they prosper moving forward.

□ 1030

HONORING THE CAREER OF WAYNE MAHAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the celebrated career of Wayne Mahar as he prepares to retire after 36 years of weather forecasting in central New York.

Wayne is one of the most recognizable and trusted weather forecasters in

central New York. When planning a hike, barbecue, tailgate, or family outing, central New Yorkers have relied on Wayne to share the weather for nearly four decades.

Originally from Brunswick, Maine, Wayne Mahar began his career working for the National Weather Service. From there, he founded Precision Weather Service, a private weather consulting firm that builds forecasts for major events like the Major League Baseball All-Star Game, the Super Bowl, and red carpet events.

In 1985 Wayne joined the CNY, Central New York, broadcast team in Syracuse, becoming the first full-time meteorologist in central New York. Here he brought a new level of seriousness to the profession by utilizing computer models and hard science to make his forecasts. Through this approach Wayne became known for accuracy, reliability, and his outdoor broadcasts from the CNY Central Weather Deck.

An expert on severe weather events, Wayne was also there to deliver critical, lifesaving information to families during some of the most historic weather events in central New York, including the great blizzard of 1993 and the 1998 Labor Day storm.

Outside of forecasting, Wayne has been a prominent fixture in our community. He is an avid hockey player, hosts regular workshops for young, aspiring meteorologists, and in 2008 he founded the Priscilla Mahar Animal Welfare Foundation. The nonprofit organization was named after his late mother and champions animal welfare causes, raising over a quarter of a million dollars for local animal rescues.

For nearly four decades, families like mine have turned to Wayne Mahar when we want to know if there will be sun, rain, sleet, or just another day of lake-effect snow. While he will be dearly missed on our televisions, central New Yorkers can rest assured they will continue to see him.

When he is not spending time with his children and grandchildren, Wayne has promised he will remain an active part of our community. Personally, I am glad to hear that because I still have not had the opportunity yet to put a few pucks at him while he stands in the hockey goal, but I am going to do that before too long.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring Wayne Mahar for an incredible career in weather forecasting and wishing him the best in his well-deserved retirement.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF MAX CLELAND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to remember and honor the life of former Georgia Secretary of State and United States Senator Max Cleland. Max was a

political giant in Georgia, dedicating his life to the service of others.

A disabled war veteran of the Vietnam era, Max worked tirelessly to improve the Veterans Administration to help his fellow soldiers. Committed to helping others, Max made it his mission to help our veterans most in need and suffering from mental and physical disorders. As a pharmacist, I am able to personally appreciate his work to make lifesaving medicines more easily available.

His dedication and service to his community and country will not go unnoticed. I am thankful for Max's lifetime of dedicated service, and I know his legacy will live on forever.

My thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends, and all who knew him during this most difficult time.

OGLETHORPE SPEEDWAY PARK CLOSING

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reflect upon the closing of the great Oglethorpe Speedway Park in Pooler, Georgia.

The Oglethorpe Speedway Park opened in March of 1951 and has hosted some of the most exciting weekends for race fans ever since. Sadly, Oglethorpe Speedway Park will be closing its operations for good.

This speedway has become a home for its employees and fans alike such as Darlene Nerich, who has worked each season and every weekend since April 1, 2000. Darlene's daughter took her senior prom pictures and had her wedding at the track so that her mother could continue her streak. Geraldine Jenkins has been attending races since 1951 when she was 14 and has hardly missed a race.

Georgians are collectively mourning the loss of this beloved landmark and the memories it holds. We are sad to see it go, but we are excited for what may come next.

REMEMBERING MONSIGNOR WILLIAM OLIVER O'NEILL

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to remember and honor the life of the Reverend Monsignor William Oliver O'Neill of St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Savannah.

Reverend O'Neill served the people of Savannah for 46 years until his retirement in 2013. He served six churches in his time in Savannah and spent much of his time preserving the history of the church in the city.

Reverend O'Neill oversaw and managed the \$11 million restoration of the Cathedral Basilica of St. John the Baptist in Savannah that was completed in 2000. In 2003, Reverend O'Neill successfully stopped an armed arsonist from damaging the church by telling him: Don't point that gun at me. I will knock your head off.

He removed smoldering cushions from the bishop's chair and a burning Bible from the pulpit as the arsonist looked on. Reverend O'Neill returned, intent on fighting the fire with a fire extinguisher before police stopped him and firefighters arrived.

He was the image of service to others and love for God. My thoughts and prayers are with his friends and family through this difficult time.

CELEBRATING WILLIE MAE HUBBARD-WRIGHT'S 103RD BIRTHDAY

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 103rd birthday of Willie Mae Hubbard-Wright of Liberty County.

Born on November 4, 1918, 7 days before the unofficial end of World War I, Willie Mae has been a staple in her community for many years.

During her childhood, she was a proud member of Ebenezer Presbyterian Church in Freedmen's Grove.

She attended grammar school at Dorchester Academy and graduated in 1936. After grammar school, Willie Mae became a boarder in Dorchester, where she learned to sew, a talent that would stay with her many years after her time as a boarder.

The living embodiment of motherly love, Willie Mae sewed clothes for her family and friends, making full use of the talent God had given her. We treasure Willie Mae and are happy to celebrate this momentous occasion.

Happy birthday, Willie Mae, 103 years young.

RECONCILIATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the gross misuse of a noble process called reconciliation and the President's apparent lack of concern for the well-being of rural and middle-class Americans.

The reconciliation process exists to do exactly what its name suggests—to direct Congress with a tool of compromise to reduce the national deficit with a simple majority vote in both Chambers. President Biden, Speaker PELOSI, and House Democrats are, instead, using this process to jam partisan legislation through a deadlocked Congress. This is shameless, and American taxpayers will bear the cost in both their wallets and their consciences.

The reconciliation package is chock-full of policy moves that will damage our country and compromise our integrity as a nation. Among them are the expansion of welfare without work requirements. At a time when our supply chains are in crisis and we have help wanted signs at every corner, this will only worsen the issue. Another troubling provision would give the IRS \$80 billion to hire 87,000 new agents and ramp up audits on individuals and small businesses.

Just a few other terrible provisions include increasing penalties for businesses who don't comply with OSHA vaccine mandates which are an egregious Federal Government overreach, imposing new fines on the oil and gas industry, and punishing States like Kansas who have opted not to expand Medicaid.

Perhaps the worst part of the entire reconciliation package, though, is what is not included. Democrats have excluded the Hyde amendment, a long-standing bipartisan amendment that protects Americans who oppose abortion from being forced to pay for these abortions from their tax dollars.

While the President is on a tax-and-spend spree for his party's leftist wish list, the price of nearly everything is skyrocketing in this country. Americans are heading into the holiday season more financially insecure because of this administration's policies. Consumer prices have increased over 6 percent since last year—the highest rate of inflation in over 30 years. Should this massive spending package become law, Mr. Speaker, you can expect prices to keep going up.

While the White House has stated this bill will cost \$1.75 trillion, the true cost of the reconciliation package could be as much as \$3.98 trillion according to some models. As if adding to our Nation's already enormous debt wasn't enough, this bill will drive up inflation and end up taxing the middle class.

This bill is twice as long as the Bible, it is toxic for the American people, and it is a gross misuse of a usually noble process. I stand in opposition to it on numerous counts.

Mr. Speaker, the BBB is bad, bad, bad for America, and I urge this Congress to join me in strongly opposing it.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BARNEY BROOKS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PFLUGER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of U.S. Air Force veteran and San Angelo native Barney Brooks who passed away on November 7, 2021, at the age of 92.

Mr. Brooks was a born pilot and often joked that he knew he was meant to fly even before the stork dropped him off.

In the Air Force, Barney served as a lieutenant colonel and combat pilot completing over 100 missions in the Korean war and 50 in the Vietnam war. Over his 23-year career, he served in Korea, Vietnam, and the Cold War, and he was stationed at multiple bases around the United States and throughout the world.

Our country owes a debt of gratitude to Barney who was brave enough to don the uniform and put his life on the line many times, as well as his family, including his beloved wife, Nancy, and five children who supported him and empowered him to charge forward in the fight for freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Barney for his noble service.

RECOGNIZING PHILIP PARKS

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of Philip Parks of Odessa, Texas, who passed away on October 29, 2021, at the age of 76.

Mr. Parks was a devoted Christian, husband, father, and grandfather who was dedicated to the service of his family, his community, his church, and many other things, including his country.

Philip served our country valiantly in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam war as a linguist in Taiwan. He was a schoolteacher for over 30 years, a principal for many schools throughout the area, and an extremely active member of the First Baptist Church and other organizations, including the Rotary Club and VFW—even serving as a volunteer firefighter.

We will never know the number of lives he impacted over the course of his own life. I had the privilege of meeting Mr. Parks right here in Washington, D.C., on his last flight when he traveled here with the Permian Basin Honor Flight. What an honor it was to see the service, the dedication, and the leadership.

I am sending my deepest condolences to his beloved wife, Lois, who shared 52 years of marriage, and his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. Parks for his service.

SOUTHERN BORDER

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask a simple question: When will this administration recognize the crisis at our southern border?

Late last night Customs and Border Protection released their record-shattering border crisis numbers. Once again, in the month of October, more than 164,000 illegal immigrants were apprehended.

This is the worst October in DHS history, and these are only the numbers of those who were apprehended, not to mention the got-aways. Drug trafficking and human trafficking is surging. It is confirmed that MS-13 gang members are crossing into the United States and hundreds of thousands—in fact, over 2.1 million—have entered this country illegally with more advancing towards our southern border right now.

Meanwhile, the administration is considering nearly half a million dollars in payments to illegal immigrants who broke the law while they are not paying contractors to build the wall and they are leaving already paid for materials in the field to rot. All this is made worse by the fact that the President is forcing our brave Border Patrol officers who are woefully understaffed and lacking the resources they need to choose between their livelihoods and a vaccine mandate. We have seen reporting by the Border Patrol that nearly half of its agents could be fired in less than a week due to the administration's November 22 COVID-19 vaccine deadline.

It has never been more clear. The President has abandoned Texas and every other border State, and he is cutting his own Border Patrol agents off at the knees. It is long past time to

admit that there is a crisis at our southern border and that the men and women of the United States Border Patrol are overwhelmed and they need their Commander in Chief to support them.

This crisis is not slowing down.

Mr. President, we urge you to secure the border, to not abandon Texas, and to come to our rescue.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

HONORING OFFICERS CHRIS OBERHEIM AND JEFFREY CREEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, some Members of this body have called to defund the police. Sadly, while crime is on the rise, we have Democrat Governors across the country who are implementing anti-police policies.

In Illinois, our Governor signed legislation to eliminate bail and put offenders right back on the street. He released dangerous inmates because of COVID and refuses to work with ICE to deport illegal immigrants. The result, as we all know, is that our neighborhoods are less safe and the job of law enforcement is more dangerous. People want and need police protection. Americans appreciate and support our police.

Tragically, this past year we lost a brave officer from Champaign, Illinois. In the line of duty, Officer Chris Oberheim was killed and Officer Jeffrey Creel, his partner, was shot three times while returning fire. He survived. Like so many law enforcement officers around our country, Officer Oberheim and Officer Creel put the people of their community first ahead of their own safety.

Officer Oberheim's life and service will not and should not be forgotten. I cannot imagine the loss and the pain that his family suffers day by day. They continue to be in my thoughts and prayers.

Misguided policies from ignorant politicians have turned Chicago into a war zone and are making our communities less safe. Criminals are allowed to steal thousands of dollars of merchandise and many are not being charged. Soft-on-crime policies embolden criminals.

I promise to always back the blue and stand with our police. May God bless our law enforcement.

□ 1045

HOUTHIS' LATEST ACT OF AGGRESSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring much-needed attention

to the Houthis' latest act of aggression.

Back in February, President Biden naively removed the Houthis, the Iranian-backed proxy force in Yemen, from designation as a foreign terrorist organization and from the specially designated global terrorist lists.

Taking full advantage of President Biden's foolish decision and complete lack of leadership, the Houthis stormed the U.S. Embassy in Yemen last Wednesday, using the raid to take hostages and equipment. After years of brutal tactics, this latest act of hostility confirms again that the ruthless Houthis must be designated as a foreign terrorist organization.

In June, I proudly introduced legislation to do just that. H.R. 3965, the Standing Against Houthi Aggression Act, would reinstate the sanctions that the Trump administration placed on the Houthis, and redesignate the group as a foreign terrorist organization.

I am deeply concerned for the safety of the Yemeni locals who were kidnapped while protecting our embassy. And again, I call on the Biden administration to provide an immediate briefing to Congress regarding that dangerous situation.

I also implore all of my colleagues to support H.R. 3965, and I urge Speaker PELOSI to bring this legislation to the floor for immediate consideration.

We have already witnessed devastating impacts of the administration's botched Afghanistan withdrawal. We cannot allow President Biden's void in leadership to develop additional disasters in the Middle East.

In fact, at this very moment, our adversaries are defiantly gearing up to cause destruction. From China aggressively preparing for a potential invasion of Taiwan, to Russia successfully testing an anti-satellite weapon in space, numerous emerging international crises present additional leadership tests for President Biden. So far, the silence has been deafening.

For the sake of the American people and our allies, Mr. President, lead from the front.

AMERICA'S SOARING INFLATION

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the soaring inflation that continues to burden Americans across this great Nation. There are plenty of reasons to be thankful this holiday season, but Biden's Thanksgiving tax is not one of them.

Prices of common grocery items are skyrocketing, just in time for folks to gather around the table with loved ones. The price of a 15-pound turkey is up 27 percent. Apples are up 6.7 percent. Potatoes are up 13 percent. Cranberries are up 5.2 percent. And the list goes on and on. In fact, this year's Thanksgiving is expected to be the most expensive holiday meal in history.

But it doesn't just stop at the grocery store checkout line. Consistent with months of increasing gas prices, holiday travelers will face sticker

shock at the gas pump, where the cost of a gallon of gas is up 61 percent from this time last year. Gas is up 61 percent.

Purposely moving forward with another massive multitrillion-dollar spending package, Democrats continue to ignore these very troubling inflation concerns. American workers, families, and small businesses deserve better.

In the face of a volatile economy, we should prioritize fiscal responsibility and offer solutions to the inflation crisis, not make it worse and fan the flames of inflation by injecting trillions of dollars of borrowed Federal money into the economy.

CELEBRATING MARS WRIGLEY FLOWERY BRANCH PLANT'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Mars Wrigley plant in the city of Flowery Branch, in the Ninth District of Georgia.

The plant opened back in 1971, becoming one of the very first confection factories in northern Georgia. Now, it is the manufacturing hub for the company's iconic gum brands, producing 75 percent of the chewing gum volume for the North American market.

Currently, the plant employs over 920 associates, of which 250 have been with Mars Wrigley for over 20 years. Due to their hard work, this factory is one of the fastest growing manufacturing plants in the State of Georgia, and has been recognized as such by the chamber of commerce for its impact on the Hall County community.

In fact, Mars Wrigley continues to go the extra mile by giving back to the local community, regularly volunteering in clean-ups, Christmas gift donations, and food banks.

Congratulations, Mars Wrigley, on 50 productive years in northern Georgia, and best wishes for another prolific half century.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

RECOGNIZING AARON CLAY, TENNESSEE SECONDARY SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION'S ATHLETIC DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Aaron Clay, who was named the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association's Athletic Director of the Year.

Aaron Clay is the athletics director at the Washburn School. He graduated from Washburn in 1997. His brother, Greg, hired him shortly after graduating to help the school's basketball team.

Since returning to coach the basketball team, Director Clay led several of Washburn's athletic teams to success. He coached two basketball teams to the substate tournament, won two dis-

trict titles in basketball, and sent a cross-country student athlete to the State championship meet for five straight years.

Mr. Speaker, under Director Clay's leadership, the school recently completed a new gymnasium. Away from athletics, Director Clay also leads Washburn's academic curriculum as an assistant principal. In his academic role, he once again teamed up with his brother, Greg, who is Washburn's principal.

The TSSAA Athletic Director of the Year award celebrates an athletic director who builds up students on and off the field and, clearly, he does this, Mr. Speaker.

Director Clay's work throughout his career as a school administrator and athletic director positively influenced hundreds of Washburn students. Our community is proud of the impact he has had on young people.

Congratulations, Director Clay, and keep up the good work.

HUGE VICTORY FOR INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, individual freedom just scored a huge victory. Last weekend, a court of appeals ruled what we already know. Joe Biden overstepped his authority with his vaccine mandate. No more jobs will be threatened by the administration over coronavirus vaccination status, for now.

I applaud those who stood up to Biden's vaccine mandate in court. But the fight isn't over, Mr. Speaker. It is clearly not over. Biden's far-left Justice Department is plotting a legal assault to revive the mandate. Those of us who value personal liberty cannot be content with one court ruling.

More action is necessary, Mr. Speaker.

My bill, the Keeping our COVID-19 Heroes Employed Act, which is sponsored in the Senate by Senator MARSHA BLACKBURN, also from Tennessee, would further protect American workers by forbidding certain employers from firing unvaccinated employees.

We need to ban Biden's vaccine mandate because it is unconstitutional, Mr. Speaker, but also because of the crippling effect it will have on our economy.

For example, supply chain jobs will be lost if Biden's vaccine mandate takes effect. A labor shortage in the supply chains means it takes longer to move products to America's storefronts, Mr. Speaker. The costs of keeping up with demand is passed to consumers in the form of higher prices.

If Biden gets his way, it will devastate our struggling economy and steal paychecks from hardworking Americans, Mr. Speaker. Congress can't wait for the Biden administration's next attack on the unvaccinated. Let's protect the civil liberties of the workers by passing the Keeping our COVID-19 Heroes Employed Act, Mr. Speaker.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 54 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Equip us, O Lord, this day with the full armor You provide, that we would be confident to stand for whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right and pure.

May these, Your divine intentions, be the principles we strive to preserve this day. In everything we do, with Your steadfast love as our foundation, may we stand unwavering.

Gird us then with the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness. Prepare us to give testimony to Your peace and to hold high a defense of faith in Your gracious plan.

Protect us with the covering of Your deliverance and attune our hearts to the piercing insight of Your word.

May Your confidence in us not be in vain, but may we prove worthy in wielding the power of Your mercy.

Then may all those who seek to undermine decency, who rejoice in rancor and capitalize on conflict, may they all fall defenseless before Your throne of grace.

For it is only in Your grace that we find hope and by the power of Your name are we able to pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ESPAILLAT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CALLING FOR FULL RESTORATION OF BUFFALO RIVER

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, the \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill signed into law yesterday reveals the power of this moment and the importance of momentum.

Madam Speaker, 50 years ago, the Buffalo River was declared biologically dead and ecologically destroyed. Through the work of the Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper and their partners, we made a plan and made progress passing the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Now with new infrastructure funding, new life for the Buffalo River is closer than ever.

Today, I am calling on the Environmental Protection Agency for a full restoration of the Buffalo River and for a date-certain action plan to delist the river as an area of concern.

This project restores our natural environment, and it makes more viable other projects like The Riverline and the DL&W terminal. It also leverages a settlement reached this week to provide river access to the Kaisertown neighborhood and new public access along Buffalo's City Ship Canal.

The power of this law will lead us to a logical conclusion, connecting our community to resources long denied and to improve our life quality now and into the future.

RECOGNIZING PIRI KATZ ON HER 94TH BIRTHDAY

(Mrs. STEEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. STEEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 94th birthday of a truly inspirational figure in our Orange County community, Piri Katz. Piri Katz is a Holocaust survivor.

At just 15, Piri and her family were taken by Nazis on the eve of Passover. After spending months in concentration camps, where her family was murdered, she was liberated by American soldiers in May 1945. No one can imagine the horrors she and others who lived through this tragedy experienced and the strength it took just to survive.

In September 1949, she came to America and built her own American Dream. She made a beautiful life for herself here. Piri has four kids and eight grandkids that she is so proud of.

Piri's story is inspiring and should remind all of us to never take our freedom for granted.

Happy 94th birthday, Piri.

HONORING THE LATIN AMERICAN WOMEN WRITERS PROJECT

(Mr. ESPAILLAT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 26 incredibly talented Latina women in the field of literature that I had the pleasure of meeting this morning.

These women are a huge part of the Latin American Women Writers Project. They represent the best in our community, the leaders that stand tall today to inspire our youth and our entire community.

Their efforts to ensure inclusion and representation in journalism, creative writing, and storytelling, and sharing these ideas with us here today, are commendable. They are laying the groundwork, Mr. Speaker, to uplift and inspire the next generation of Latina writers.

I hope that the discussion we had today will continue onward throughout our communities and across this great Nation and that their work will continue to inspire many in our communities, particularly the next generation.

They have used their voices to share their stories with our families. Mr. Speaker, I welcome them.

BIDEN INFLATION HIGHEST IN 40 YEARS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the October Consumer Price Index has increased 6.2 percent in a year with Biden inflation. Annualized, this means inflation is going to be 7.4 percent, which would make it the highest rate since 1982, the highest rate of inflation in over 40 years.

At the same time, in 7 of the last 9 months, real wages have fallen and workers lost 2.6 percent of their salaries by the end of the first Biden year. Biden and the Democrats are accelerating inflation with insane spending bills, which now total over \$5 trillion.

Democrat elite think they are smarter than anyone, and they think Democrat voters are ignorant to believe \$5 trillion in spending costs zero dollars. You pay with Biden inflation.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, who successfully protected America for 20 years as the global war on terrorism continues moving from the Afghanistan safe haven to America.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF NOHEMA GRABER

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a wonderful woman from my district who dedicated her life to the betterment of her community by educating the next generation.

On November 2, 2021, Fairfield lost a beloved member of their community, Nohema Graber. Born in Mexico, Nohema later moved to Iowa, where her love for education drove her to pursue a career in teaching. She would eventually go on to teach Spanish at Fairfield High School.

When reading stories about Nohema's kind and caring spirit, I came across one that really warmed my heart, and I would like to share it.

When a dear friend of Nohema's son was diagnosed with a brain tumor 12 years ago, Nohema would pray with her friend every single day. Her son, now healthy, was among the countless members of the Fairfield community to attend Nohema's vigil.

I send my prayers out to the friends and family of Nohema Graber, as well as the students and faculty of Fairfield High School, as they mourn this tragic loss.

RECOGNIZING LEE McMILLAN ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Lee McMillan, of Ashe County, who will be celebrating his 90th birthday this Saturday.

I have been blessed to know Lee for many years, and I know that he has helped build the foundation that the North Carolina Republican Party stands upon today.

His 23 years of service to the United States Navy, after his graduation from the Naval Academy, and his tireless work in promoting conservative values on the local and State level are nothing short of admirable.

Lee is also the proud owner of Shatley Springs Inn and Restaurant located in the high country, a local landmark that has received national recognition since 1958.

To me, Lee is a perfect representation of the best that Ashe County and western North Carolina have to offer.

Thank you, Lee, and happy birthday.

SPENDING TRILLIONS WILL WORSEN INFLATION

(Mr. BERGMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, in Michigan's First District, we are hunkering down for the usual long but beautiful winter season. We enjoy it, and we prepare for it.

This year, that preparation is much more complicated. The supply chain crisis, labor shortages, and inflation have made our gas and groceries that much more expensive at a time when we can't necessarily afford it at that working-family level.

In my district, we are truly feeling the negative impacts of this administration's failed policies. The White

House and congressional Democrats seem to be living in a different reality, telling us that the President's agenda "will not add to inflationary pressure."

Mr. Speaker, the real risk here would be passing the Democrat's multitrillion-dollar tax and spend package. My colleagues in the House seem to be turning a blind eye to what Americans are actually experiencing.

Make no mistake, spending trillions, while punishing the middle class and job creators, will make inflation worse.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to oppose this legislation.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVER MONTH

(Mr. LAHOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Family Caregiver Month.

More than 95 percent of individuals with dementia also have one or more chronic conditions. Individuals with dementia rely heavily on their family members or other caregivers to provide time, transportation, and other health services, which can be economically and emotionally challenging for a family.

In Illinois alone, we have over 381,000 caregivers for people living with dementia, and 53.5 percent of them have their own chronic health conditions.

During National Family Caregiver Month, it is important to recognize the dedication and sacrifice that families and caregivers provide for their loved ones.

My legislation, the Comprehensive Care for Alzheimer's Act, provides additional support to dementia patients and caregivers. The bill would direct the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation to implement a dementia care model to test comprehensive care management services and would make a big impact on the lives of people living with dementia and their caregivers.

As I travel throughout Illinois, dementia care and Alzheimer's advocates continue to share their caregiving stories with me. Mr. Speaker, I ask for support of this bill.

□ 1215

INVESTMENTS IN THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN COMMUNITY

(Mr. KAHELE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KAHELE. Mr. Speaker, as a native Hawaiian, I am excited to highlight how the Build Back Better Act will benefit the native Hawaiian community and all of the original indigenous peoples, the first peoples of these nations, across the United States.

The Build Back Better Act will strengthen our collective indigenous communities through investments in

culturally relevant healthcare, housing and community development, professional development for indigenous languages and early childhood educators, accelerator programs for small businesses, and funding for native Hawaiian healthcare systems.

These programs further the trust responsibility from the United States Government to indigenous communities.

The Build Back Better Act also creates opportunities for Federal consultation on land use planning, development, and infrastructure projects—something our indigenous communities have requested for years.

That is why we must pass the Build Back Better Act and add its investments to the initiatives we just passed in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The Build Back Better Act supports our indigenous communities and creates opportunity for indigenous peoples while ensuring that America's richest citizens pay their fair share.

Mahalo, Mr. Speaker.

SOUTHERN BORDER CRISIS

(Mr. BILIRAKIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the dangerous situation at our southern border.

Since President Biden took office, there have been over 1.4 million illegal border crossings. These record-high apprehensions keep increasing with no end in sight, and now a new caravan of migrants is headed through Mexico to our southern border, as we speak.

Instead of addressing what has become a humanitarian, health, and national security problem, this administration and congressional Democrats keep announcing plans that will only exacerbate the problem.

For example, the administration has discussed paying illegal immigrants settlement payments of up to \$450,000, and the spending package being pushed through this Chamber includes amnesty for up to 10 million illegal immigrants and up to \$100 billion in taxpayer-funded benefits for them.

These irresponsible proposals and dangerous open border policies will continue to fuel the crisis and encourage more illegal activity at the border. We must secure our borders and ensure that the rule of law applies to everyone.

HONORING FALLEN HEROES

(Mrs. KIM of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our 13 fallen servicemembers who made the ultimate sacrifice to save the lives of Americans and allies in Afghanistan at the Kabul Airport at the end of August.

These brave men and women, including southern California marines Lance Corporal Dylan Merola, Lance Corporal Kareem Nikoui, and Corporal Hunter Lopez, were young—many in their twenties—and incredibly brave. They valiantly put their lives on the line for others. Their courage and heroism in the face of danger will never be forgotten.

I am proud that the House of Representatives came together to honor their memory and posthumously award these fallen heroes a well-deserved Congressional Gold Medal.

Mr. Speaker, we remember their names and their stories always, and we continue to rally with our new Gold Star families.

RECOGNIZING THE THOMAS FAMILY OF MEYERSDALE, PENNSYLVANIA, AND THEIR ACTS OF KINDNESS

(Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Thomas family of Meyersdale, Pennsylvania, who tragically lost their son, Trevor, a student athlete who played baseball at Allegany College of Maryland and at Penn State.

In the face of that loss, the Thomas family has responded with love and compassion for their community. In honor of their son's commitment to serving others, the Thomas family printed small cards that encouraged their neighbors to help others through acts of kindness.

Those cards have inspired incredible gestures of generosity in our community. The acts of kindness were wide-ranging. From preparing care packages for the homeless to donating blood to handing out doughnuts and even delivering flowers to strangers, members of the community looked to see what they could do to help one another.

Together, the people of Somerset County are working to keep Trevor's memory alive through their acts of service for one another.

On each card that the family has distributed is a simple mantra that defined the way that Trevor lived his life. It is a mantra that we should all aspire to: Be somebody who makes everybody feel like somebody.

ENDING EXPLOITATION OF VETERANS

(Mr. CAWTHORN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CAWTHORN. Mr. Speaker, freedom is born through the sacrifice of patriots. We occupy this Chamber today and walk free among our countrymen because generation after generation of liberty-minded warriors surrendered their lives to the conviction that America was worth defending. Their

blood, their sweat, and their sacrifice are the currency for our freedom.

Their sacrifice must never be exploited. I am honored to bring before this Chamber today legislation that ends the exploitation of veterans' finances and taxpayer dollars. A loophole exists in the GI Bill that allows some public flight schools to charge exorbitant amounts of money to veterans and taxpayers for veterans' tuition.

My legislation, the Fly Vets Act, not only stops this loophole dead in its tracks, but it empowers veterans and drastically expands their benefits. It allows them to pay for flight training through accelerated payments and allows them to double the monetary cap on both tuition and fees per year. This bill does not cut benefits in any way. It gives power back to our heroes in uniform.

I thank the many VSOs who support this legislation, along with Congresswoman UNDERWOOD for encompassing this legislation in her bill and working with me across party lines to ensure that the exploitation of veterans and taxpayers ends today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MALINOWSKI). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

VA ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2021

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4591) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress periodic reports on the costs of the Department of Veterans Affairs Electronic Health Record Modernization program, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4591

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "VA Electronic Health Record Transparency Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. REPORTS ON COSTS, PERFORMANCE METRICS, AND OUTCOMES OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD MODERNIZATION PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 503 of the Veterans Benefits and Transition Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–407; 38 U.S.C. 5701 note prec.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (f);

(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the following new subsection (e):

“(e) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—

“(1) REPORTS ON COSTS OF EHRM PROGRAM.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the VA Electronic Health

Record Transparency Act of 2021, and every 30 days after the last day of each fiscal quarter thereafter until the termination date specified in paragraph (3), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on the costs of the Electronic Health Record Modernization program of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Each such report shall include, for the period covered by the report and for the total period beginning on the date of the enactment of the VA Electronic Health Record Transparency Act of 2021 and ending on the date of the submittal of the report, a description of all actual expenses of, and driven by, such program, including any such expenses paid using—

“(A) any funds appropriated for the Department of Veterans Affairs, for any source or account, expended by any organizational element of the Department or by the Federal Electronic Health Record Modernization Office for the Electronic Health Record Modernization Program;

“(B) any funds, from any source or account, expended by any organizational element of the Department for physical or technology infrastructure modifications, enhancements, improvements, or expansions at a facility of the Department necessitated by, or related or pertaining to, the Electronic Health Record Modernization Program; and

“(C) any funds, from any source or account, expended by any organizational element of the Department or by the Federal Electronic Health Record Modernization Office for consultants, support contractors, or experts related or pertaining to the Electronic Health Record Modernization Program.

“(2) REPORTS ON PERFORMANCE METRICS AND OUTCOMES.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the VA Electronic Health Record Transparency Act of 2021, and every 30 days after the last day of each fiscal quarter thereafter until the termination date specified in paragraph (3), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on the performance metrics and outcomes of the Electronic Health Record Modernization Program. Each such report shall include, for the period covered by the report—

“(A) a list of the quality, performance, safety, or value metrics, key performance indicators, and other diagnostic or evaluation criteria in use to assess the Electronic Health Record Modernization Program and the electronic health record system, in general and at individual facilities, with respect to veterans, employees of the Department, and Departmental operations;

“(B) an explanation of any change to any of such metrics, indicators, and criteria compared to the metrics, indicators, and criteria included in any previous report submitted under this paragraph;

“(C) the data supporting or demonstrating each such metric, indicator, and criteria compared to the data supporting or demonstrating such metric, indicator, or criteria as included in the previous report submitted under this paragraph; and

“(D) a list of patient safety reports, incidents, alerts, or disclosures at each facility of the Department where the electronic health record system has been implemented.

“(3) TERMINATION DATE.—The requirement to submit a report under paragraph (1) shall terminate on the date that is 90 days after the date on which the Secretary submits to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives certification that the Electronic Health Record Modernization program has been fully implemented.”; and

(3) in subsection (f), as redesignated by paragraph (1), by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(3) The term ‘electronic health record system’ means the electronic health record system implemented pursuant to the Electronic Health Record Modernization Program.

“(4) The term ‘Federal Electronic Health Record Management Office’ means the office established under section 1635(b) of the Wounded Warrior Act (title XVI of Public Law 110–181; 10 U.S.C. 1071 note).

“(5) The term ‘facility of the Department’ includes a joint facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 4591, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4591, the VA Electronic Health Record Transparency Act of 2021, as amended.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has struggled to produce reliable cost estimates and reporting on the infrastructure needs associated with its \$16 billion electronic health record modernization project. This bill is a good governance measure which will enable Congress to conduct better oversight and hold VA accountable for its spending.

It is essential that we ensure that taxpayer funds meant to serve veterans are being used properly and that VA is maintaining detailed records of its IT and physical infrastructure expenditures. We owe that to the veterans who get their care from VA and to the American taxpayer.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 4591, as amended, which was unanimously supported in committee.

I reserve the balance of my time, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4591, as amended, the VA Electronic Health Record Transparency Act.

Since the very beginning of the Electronic Health Record Modernization, or the EHRM, program, this committee has been requesting accurate and up-to-date lifecycle cost estimates from VA. Despite our requests, VA has never provided a credible lifecycle cost estimate. VA's cost estimates could not withstand even the most basic scrutiny.

This bill would require quarterly reports on the costs of the EHRM program. It would also capture the roughly \$5 billion of costs the Inspector General found were unaccounted for and any other costs that VA has not been including.

Of course, cost is not everything. The electronic health record program needs to help the VA medical staff better care for veterans. That is why this bill would also require VA to report on performance and safety metrics. These data points will allow us to evaluate the program and determine whether it is making VA medical centers safer, faster, and better.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the bipartisan work of the Technology Modernization Subcommittee, and I am also pleased to be the original cosponsor of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to support H.R. 4591, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MRVAN), who is my good friend and a member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs and chairman of the Subcommittee on Technology Modernization.

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman TAKANO for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year the VA Office of the Inspector General released two separate reports highlighting VA's failure to conduct reliable lifecycle cost estimates for its Electronic Health Record Modernization program.

Specifically, the IG repeatedly found unreliable and incomplete estimates for infrastructure upgrades and costs as well as inadequate reporting of those costs.

Given the size and scope of the EHRM program, the lack of accurate cost estimates hampers VA's ability to provide Congress with an accurate picture of the cost and scale of efforts to modernize IT and physical infrastructure at VA medical centers.

This piece of legislation will address these issues. It requires VA to look at all costs across VHA, OIT, and any other programs for any amount expended on the EHRM program, including for infrastructure projects and contractors that were not part of the original contract. This legislation also requires VA to provide the committee with reports on performance metrics and outcomes.

I thank Chairman TAKANO and Ranking Member BOST for their leadership and for cosponsoring this legislation as well as all of the other cosponsors and the committee members who have truly made this a bipartisan effort.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

□ 1230

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 4591, the VA Electronic Health Record Transparency Act of 2021, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4591, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress periodic reports on the costs, performance metrics, and outcomes of the Department of Veterans Affairs Electronic Health Record Modernization program."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

VITAL ASSESSMENT ACT

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5516) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on the Veterans Integration to Academic Leadership program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5516

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "VITAL Assessment Act".

SEC. 2. VETERANS INTEGRATION TO ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report on the Veterans Integration to Academic Leadership program of the Department of Veterans Affairs. The report shall include the following:

(1) The number of medical centers of the Department, institutions of higher learning, non-college degree programs, and student veterans supported by the program, and relevant trends since the program began.

(2) The staff and resources allocated to the program, and relevant trends since the program began.

(3) An assessment of the outcomes and effectiveness of the program in—

(A) supporting student veterans;

(B) connecting student veterans to needed services of the Department or services provided by non-Department entities;

(C) addressing the mental health needs of student veterans;

(D) lowering the suicide risk of student veterans; and

(E) helping student veterans achieve educational goals.

(4) An assessment of barriers to expanding the program and how the Secretary intends to address such barriers.

(5) An assessment of whether the program should be expanded outside of the Office of

Mental Health and Suicide Prevention to support students veterans with needs unrelated to mental health or suicide.

(b) UNIFORM BEST PRACTICES, GOALS, AND MEASURES.—The Secretary shall establish best practices, goals, and measures for the Veterans Integration to Academic Leadership program of the Department that are uniform among the medical centers of the Department.

(c) OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall conduct outreach among the Armed Forces, veterans service organizations, institutions of higher learning, and non-college degree programs with respect to the Veterans Integration to Academic Leadership program of the Department.

(d) ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary shall assess the feasibility and advisability of including the suicide rate for student veterans in the National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report of the Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention of the Department.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term "institution of higher learning" has the meaning given that term in section 3452 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) The term "student veteran" means the following:

(A) A veteran or member of the Armed Forces using educational assistance under any of the following provisions of law:

(i) Chapter 30, 31, 32, or 33 of title 38, United States Code, or chapter 1606 or 1607 of title 10, United States Code.

(ii) Section 116 of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-48; 38 U.S.C. 3001 note).

(iii) Section 8006 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-2; 38 U.S.C. 3001 note prec.).

(B) A veteran who is enrolled in an institution of higher learning or other training program, without regard to whether the veteran is using educational assistance specified in subparagraph (A).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 5516, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5516, the VITAL Assessment Act, as amended, which is sponsored by our newest House Veterans' Affairs Committee member, Congressman ELLZEY.

This bill requires that VA submit a report on the Department's Veterans Integration to Academic Leadership, or VITAL program. VITAL is designed to support student veterans in their academic settings, and it is a key component of VA's work to ensure that veterans thrive after completing their military service.

VITAL is a longtime program at VA, and this report will provide a timely

opportunity to examine outcomes for student veterans and academic institutions supported by VA.

I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on H.R. 5516, the VITAL Assessment Act, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5516, as amended, the VITAL Assessment Act.

This bill is sponsored by, as was said, our newest member of the Veterans’ Affairs Committee, Congressman JAKE ELLZEY. With this bill, he is fulfilling the promise he made on the campaign trail to put the needs of our fellow veterans front and center. His bill will make a number of improvements to the VA’s Veterans Integration to Academic Learning, or the VITAL program.

VITAL provides mental health support to student veterans on college campuses. Preventing veteran suicide and supporting veterans as they transition out of the military are two of our committee’s highest goals, and this bill would get us closer to realizing both of them.

I urge every Member to support H.R. 5516, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers and I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ELLZEY), the main sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member BOST for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to be addressing the House today as we are just days removed from Veterans Day, when our Nation recognizes those who honorably served to protect our precious, God-given liberties and freedoms. We have a duty and responsibility to help the veterans of our Armed Forces who have fought to preserve our freedoms and liberties.

In 2011, VA launched the Veterans Integration to Academic Leadership program, or the VITAL program, to provide mental health services to student veterans on college campuses.

Hundreds of thousands of veterans attend college every year. They often have difficulty adjusting from the military to an academic campus culture and relating to nonveteran peers.

As someone who has personally gone through the transition back to civilian life, I can say my experiences in combat and leadership were vastly different than the experiences of my fellow students. I was much older than my fellow students; much older. I was no longer surrounded by my fellow warriors; and I was a stranger in a strange academic land. For these reasons, I understand why the VITAL program is so important.

Since its inception in 2011, it has grown to support student veterans at 183 locations. VITAL program services

are locally managed, staffed, and evaluated by VA medical centers working with area schools, which allows for independence and flexibility. It connects student veterans with needed care and services, and helps prevent veteran suicide.

The VITAL Assessment Act will ensure critical information about the VITAL program is gathered, improvements are made, and will help provide mental healthcare and support to student veterans.

This act adds accountability and transparency. It will require the VA to report to Congress about the program’s management, operations, and effectiveness in support of student veterans’ mental health and educational goals.

It also requires the VA to use information gathered to create best new practices, goals, and performance measures for the program.

In conclusion, I thank the many veterans’ groups supporting this bill.

I am grateful to House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs Ranking Member BOST for being an original cosponsor of this bill.

And I thank Chairman TAKANO for supporting this bill and speaking favorably during the committee hearing; Health Subcommittee Chair BROWNLEY, and the members of the Veterans’ Affairs Committee for their unanimous support of this bill.

This will help student veterans achieve their goals and dreams. And just as the VITAL program has a proven record of saving lives, this bill will further improve the program and help save even more lives of veterans.

I ask all Members of the House to please support H.R. 5516.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close. I encourage all of my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 5516, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5516, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

BURN PIT REGISTRY ENHANCEMENT ACT

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2433) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to take actions necessary to ensure that certain individuals may update the burn pit registry with a registered individual’s cause of death, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2433

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Burn Pit Registry Enhancement Act”.

SEC. 2. BURN PIT REGISTRY UPDATES.

(a) INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE TO UPDATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall take actions necessary to ensure that the burn pit registry may be updated with the cause of death of a deceased registered individual by—

(A) an individual designated by such deceased registered individual; or

(B) if no such individual is designated, an immediate family member of such deceased registered individual.

(2) DESIGNATION.—The Secretary shall provide, with respect to the burn pit registry, a process by which a registered individual may make a designation for purposes of paragraph (1)(A).

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “burn pit registry” means the registry established under section 201 of the Dignified Burial and Other Veterans’ Benefits Improvement Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-260; 38 U.S.C. 527 note).

(2) The term “immediate family member”, with respect to a deceased individual, means—

(A) the spouse, parent, brother, sister, or adult child of the individual;

(B) an adult person to whom the individual stands in loco parentis; or

(C) any other adult person—

(i) living in the household of the individual at the time of the death of the individual; and

(ii) related to the individual by blood or marriage.

(3) The term “registered individual” means an individual registered with the burn pit registry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 2433.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the passage of Representative RUIZ’s Burn Pit Registry Enhancement Act.

As the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and our Senate counterparts close in on providing much-needed, comprehensive assistance to veterans exposed to burn pits and other airborne hazards, this measure from Dr. RUIZ is an important step in the right direction.

As VA continues to study the effects that burn pit and other airborne hazard

exposures have on our veterans, the collection of data is critical. Without data, important patterns are not identified, and decisive conclusions cannot be made.

This bill ensures that VA researchers and their partners will have more information to evaluate as they strive toward final determinations on issues and additional presumptive service-connected conditions.

VA's burn pit registry is for veterans and servicemembers who may have been exposed to airborne hazards caused by open burn pits while deployed in support of Operations Desert Storm, Desert Shield, New Dawn, Iraqi Freedom, or Enduring Freedom. Through this registry, veterans may report on their symptoms or illnesses, providing researchers with invaluable information used to determine potential links between veterans' exposures and their current health conditions.

The Burn Pit Registry Enhancement Act will strengthen this registry by authorizing a designee of a registered veteran or an immediate family member to update the registry with the veteran's cause of death.

While this additional information can no longer assist those who sadly pass away as a potential consequence of burn pit exposure, their cause of death data may someday assist their fellow veterans. This will be an honorable and incredibly valuable last act of service.

So, Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the passage of the Burn Pit Registry Enhancement Act, H.R. 2433, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2433, the Burn Pit Registry Enhancement Act. This bill is cosponsored by Congressmen RAUL RUIZ from California and BRAD WENSTRUP from Ohio. Dr. RUIZ and Dr. WENSTRUP are co-chairs of the House Burn Pit Caucus. I thank them for their work on this bill and continued advocacy on behalf of the veterans exposed to burn pits.

Many servicemembers and veterans are grappling with serious health conditions that they believe are the result of the burn pit exposures. That is why Congress required VA to create an Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry in 2013.

The registry was intended to provide a forum for servicemembers and veterans to document their burn pit exposures and health status so that the VA could better target research and outreach. The registry continues to be an important tool for veterans worried about burn pit and other toxic or environmental exposures.

Last Congress, two important stakeholders, Burn Pits 360 and VFW, recommended family members be allowed to update the registry in the event of the death of a servicemember or veteran listed on it. This would ensure that the registry contains a more com-

plete picture of the possible effects of burn pit exposure. This bill would do that.

When a servicemember or a veteran listed in the registry passes away, it would allow an immediate family member to report their death and cause of death to the registry.

As ranking member, improving the care and benefits provided to veterans who have experienced toxic exposure continues to be one of my top priorities. There have been bipartisan bills introduced in the House and Senate this Congress. One of those bills is my bill, the TEAM Act.

And last week, VA announced some new initiatives aimed at improving the presumptive process for toxic-exposed veterans. I still have many outstanding questions about that announcement, and am concerned by the stalled legislative efforts of the Democrat-controlled Congress.

Toxic-exposed veterans are sick and dying. We cannot let burn pits, PFAS, or particulate matters become this generation's Agent Orange. We cannot fail to take proactive action on behalf of the future generations of warfighters.

I hope that we can soon come together in the House and the Senate in a bipartisan manner to take meaningful, fiscally responsible, and scientifically sound action to address toxic exposures. In the meantime, I am pleased to support this bill today, and hope it has the support of all of my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close. I encourage all of my colleagues to support this piece of legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 2433, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2433.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1245

VA ASSESSMENT BY INDEPENDENT MEASURES ACT

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4626) to amend title 38, United States Code, to require an independent assessment of health care delivery systems and management processes of the Department of Veterans Affairs be con-

ducted once every 10 years, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4626

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "VA Assessment by Independent Measures Act" or the "VA AIM Act".

SEC. 2. REQUIREMENT FOR ONGOING INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENTS OF HEALTH CARE DELIVERY SYSTEMS AND MANAGEMENT PROCESSES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) ONGOING ASSESSMENTS.—Chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1704 the following new section:

"§ 1704A. Independent assessments of health care delivery systems and management processes

"(a) INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENTS.—Not less frequently than once every 10 years, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall enter into one or more contracts with a private sector entity or entities described in subsection (d) to conduct an independent assessment of the hospital care, medical services, and other health care furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Such assessment shall address each of the following:

"(1) Current and projected demographics and unique health care needs of the patient population served by the Department.

"(2) The accuracy of models and forecasting methods used by the Department to project health care demand, including with respect to veteran demographics, rates of use of health care furnished by the Department, the inflation of health care costs, and such other factors as may be determined relevant by the Secretary.

"(3) The reliability and accuracy of models and forecasting methods used by the Department to project the budgetary needs of the Veterans Health Administration and how such models and forecasting methods inform budgetary trends.

"(4) The authorities and mechanisms under which the Secretary may furnish hospital care, medical services, and other health care at Department and non-Department facilities, including through Federal and private sector partners and at joint medical facilities, and the effect of such authorities and mechanisms on eligibility and access to care.

"(5) The organization, workflow processes, and tools used by the Department to support clinical staffing, access to care, effective length-of-stay management and care transitions, positive patient experience, accurate documentation, and subsequent coding of inpatient services.

"(6) The efforts of the Department to recruit and retain staff at levels necessary to carry out the functions of the Veterans Health Administration and the process used by the Department to determine staffing levels necessary for such functions.

"(7) The staffing level at each medical facility of the Department and the productivity of each health care provider at the medical facility, compared with health care industry performance metrics, which may include the following:

"(A) An assessment of the case load of, and number of patients treated by, each health care provider at such medical facility during an average week.

"(B) An assessment of the time spent by each such health care provider on matters other than the case load of the health care provider, including time spent by the health care provider as follows:

“(i) At a medical facility that is affiliated with the Department.

“(ii) Conducting research.

“(iii) Training or supervising other health care professionals of the Department.

“(8) The information technology strategies of the Department with respect to furnishing and managing health care, including an identification of any weaknesses or opportunities with respect to the technology used by the Department, especially those strategies with respect to clinical documentation of hospital care, medical services, and other health care, including any clinical images and associated textual reports, furnished by the Department in Department or non-Department facilities.

“(9) Business processes of the Veterans Health Administration, including processes relating to furnishing non-Department health care, insurance identification, third-party revenue collection, and vendor reimbursement, including an identification of mechanisms as follows:

“(A) To avoid the payment of penalties to vendors.

“(B) To increase the collection of amounts owed to the Department for hospital care, medical services, or other health care provided by the Department, for which reimbursement from a third party is authorized and to ensure that such amounts collected are accurate.

“(C) To increase the collection of any other amounts owed to the Department with respect to hospital care, medical services, or other health care and to ensure that such amounts collected are accurate.

“(D) To increase the accuracy and timeliness of Department payments to vendors and providers.

“(E) To reduce expenditures while improving the quality of care furnished.

“(10) The purchase, distribution, and use of pharmaceuticals, medical and surgical supplies, medical devices, and health care-related services by the Department, including the following:

“(A) The prices paid for, standardization of, and use by, the Department with respect to the following:

“(i) Pharmaceuticals.

“(ii) Medical and surgical supplies.

“(iii) Medical devices.

“(B) The use by the Department of group purchasing arrangements to purchase pharmaceuticals, medical and surgical supplies, medical devices, and health care-related services.

“(C) The strategy and systems used by the Department to distribute pharmaceuticals, medical and surgical supplies, medical devices, and health care-related services to Veterans Integrated Service Networks and medical facilities of the Department.

“(11) The process of the Department for carrying out construction and maintenance projects at medical facilities of the Department and the medical facility leasing program of the Department.

“(12) The competency of Department leadership with respect to culture, accountability, reform readiness, leadership development, physician alignment, employee engagement, succession planning, and performance management.

“(13) The effectiveness of the authorities and programs of the Department to educate and train health personnel pursuant to section 7302 of this title.

“(14) The conduct of medical and prosthetic research of the Department.

“(15) The provision of Department assistance to Federal agencies and personnel involved in responding to a disaster or emergency.

“(16) Such additional matters as may be determined relevant by the Secretary.

“(b) TIMING.—The private sector entity or entities carrying out an assessment pursuant to subsection (a) shall complete such assessment not later than one year after entering into the contract described in such paragraph.

“(c) DATA.—To the extent practicable, the private sector entity or entities carrying out an assessment pursuant to subsection (a) shall make use of existing data that has been compiled by the Department, including data that has been collected for—

“(1) the performance of quadrennial market assessments under section 7330C of this title;

“(2) the quarterly publication of information on staffing and vacancies with respect to the Veterans Health Administration pursuant to section 505 of the VA MISSION Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-182; 38 U.S.C. 301 note); and

“(3) the conduct of annual audits pursuant to section 3102 of the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 (Public Law 116-315; 38 U.S.C. 1701 note).

“(d) PRIVATE SECTOR ENTITIES DESCRIBED.—A private sector entity described in this subsection is a private entity that—

“(1) has experience and proven outcomes in optimizing the performance of the health care delivery systems of the Veterans Health Administration and the private sector and in health care management; and

“(2) specializes in implementing large-scale organizational and cultural transformations, especially with respect to health care delivery systems.

“(e) PROGRAM INTEGRATOR.—(1) If the Secretary enters into contracts with more than one private sector entity under subsection (a) with respect to a single assessment under such subsection, the Secretary shall designate one such entity that is predominately a health care organization as the program integrator.

“(2) The program integrator designated pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be responsible for coordinating the outcomes of the assessments conducted by the private sector entities pursuant to such contracts.

“(f) REPORTS.—(1) Not later than 60 days after completing an assessment pursuant to subsection (a), the private sector entity or entities carrying out such assessment shall submit to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report on the findings and recommendations of the private sector entity or entities with respect to such assessment. Such report shall include an identification of the following:

“(A) Any changes with respect to the matters included in such assessment since the date that is the later of the following:

“(i) The date on which the independent assessment under section 201 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-146; 38 U.S.C. 1701 note) was completed.

“(ii) The date on which the last assessment under subsection (a) was completed.

“(B) Any recommendations regarding matters to be covered by subsequent assessments under subsection (a), including any additional matters to include for assessment or previously assessed matters to exclude.

“(2) Not later than 30 days after receiving a report under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall publish such report in the Federal Register and on a publicly accessible internet website of the Department.

“(3) Not later than 90 days after receiving a report under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report outlining the feasibility,

and advisability, of implementing the recommendations made by the private sector entity or entities in such report received, including an identification of the timeline, cost, and any legislative authorities necessary for such implementation.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1704 the following new item:

“1704A. Independent assessments of health care delivery systems and management processes.”.

(c) DEADLINE FOR INITIAL ASSESSMENT.—The initial assessment under section 1704A of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall be completed by not later than December 31, 2025.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 4626, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4626, as amended, the VA Assessment by Independent Measures Act, or VA AIM Act.

This bill would require the Department of Veterans Affairs to contract with one or more private-sector entities to conduct independent assessments of its healthcare delivery systems and management processes once every 10 years.

This bill would make permanent an independent assessment process that is nearly identical to the one that was mandated by the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014.

Among other things, the review would examine VA patient demographics and healthcare needs now and in the future; the accuracy and reliability of the models used to project VA's healthcare budget; veterans' access to healthcare through community providers and other Federal facilities; VA's healthcare appointment scheduling processes; and VA's process for determining its staffing needs and recruiting and retaining clinical staff.

I am pleased that Ranking Member BOST and Representative BERGMAN were open to incorporating my feedback when this bill was considered by our committee this summer. We added a provision to the bill that requires VA to submit to Congress a report outlining the feasibility and advisability of implementing any recommendations made through these independent assessments. This will help us hold the Department accountable for improving its delivery of the healthcare benefits our Nation's veterans have earned.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 4626, as amended, the VA AIM Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4626, as amended, the VA Assessment by Independent Measures Act, or AIM Act.

The AIM Act is sponsored by my friend and fellow Marine Corps veteran, General JACK BERGMAN. General BERGMAN is the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Health, and I thank him for his dedication to ensuring that the VA is providing good care for each one of our Nation's veterans.

The AIM Act would require an independent assessment of the VA healthcare system once every decade, starting in the year 2025.

When the VA was in the midst of a nationwide access and accountability crisis in 2014, Congress passed the Choice Act to help right the ship. The Choice Act included a provision requiring an independent assessment of the VA healthcare system. That led to many of the reforms that are occurring across the VA system today. Establishing a mechanism for regular independent assessments will ensure that the VA continues to improve in the decades ahead.

I appreciate Chairman TAKANO and his staff for working with me and General BERGMAN while the AIM Act was pending in committee. I hope that this bill will have the same level of bipartisan support today.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BERGMAN).

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 4626, as amended, the Department of Veterans Affairs Assessment by Independent Measures Act, or AIM Act.

When it comes to bureaucracies, I have never believed that maintaining the status quo is an acceptable path forward. In fact, it is an impossible path forward.

The world is constantly in a state of change. The way American men and women defend freedom around the world, and the way those same men and women seek care when they come home, is constantly changing as well. The VA healthcare system must change, too, or it will never fulfill its obligations to all of our veterans.

That is where the AIM Act comes in. The AIM Act would require an independent assessment of the operations and management of the VA healthcare system once every decade, beginning in 2025.

The independent assessment framework in the AIM Act is modeled after

the independent assessment that was required in the Choice Act, which was signed into law in 2014 following the nationwide VA access and accountability crisis that saw some veterans literally dying on VA facilities' waiting lists.

That independent assessment was completed in 2015, and the findings and recommendations it contained directly underpinned many of the necessary improvements that have occurred in the VA healthcare system since then.

The AIM Act would ensure that this successful model is not a one-and-done but instead regularly recurs to ensure that the VA keeps improving for veterans long into the future.

I am grateful for the support the AIM Act has received from veterans service organizations, particularly the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Wounded Warrior Project, and the Minority Veterans of America.

I am also grateful for the bipartisan support the AIM Act received in the Veterans' Affairs Committee. I thank all of my colleagues for that. I hope that there will be a similar show of bipartisan support for the bill today. My fellow veterans have earned it.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in passing this important piece of legislation, H.R. 4626, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4626, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROTECTIONS FOR STUDENT VETERANS ACT

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5603) to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish protections for a member of the Armed Forces who leaves a course of education, paid for with certain educational assistance, to perform certain service, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5603

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Protections for Student Veterans Act".

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROTECTIONS FOR A MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES WHO LEAVES A COURSE OF EDUCATION, PAID FOR WITH CERTAIN EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE, TO PERFORM CERTAIN SERVICE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Chapter 36 of title 38, United States Code, amended by inserting after section 3691 the following new section:

"§ 3691A. Withdrawal or leave of absence from certain education

"(a) IN GENERAL.—

"(1) WITHDRAWAL OR LEAVE OF ABSENCE.—A covered member may, after receiving orders to enter a period of covered service, withdraw or take a leave of absence from covered education.

"(2) PROHIBITION ON ADVERSE ACTION.—The institution concerned may not take any adverse action against a covered member on the basis that such covered member withdraws or takes a leave of absence under paragraph (1). Adverse actions include the following:

"(A) The assignment of a failing grade to a covered member for covered education.

"(B) The reduction of the grade point average of a covered member for covered education.

"(C) The characterization of any absence of a covered member from covered education as unexcused.

"(D) The assessment of any financial penalty against a covered member.

"(b) WITHDRAWAL.—If a covered member withdraws from covered education under subsection (a), the institution concerned shall refund all tuition and fees (including payments for housing) for the academic term from which the covered servicemember withdraws.

"(c) LEAVE OF ABSENCE.—If a covered member takes a leave of absence from covered education under subsection (a), the institution concerned shall—

"(1) assign a grade of 'incomplete' (or equivalent) to the covered member for covered education for the academic term from which the covered member takes such leave of absence; and

"(2) to the extent practicable, permit the covered member, upon completion of the period covered service, to complete such academic term.

"(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) The term 'covered education' means a course of education—

"(A) at an institution of higher education; and

"(B) paid for with educational assistance furnished under a law administered by the Secretary.

"(2) The term 'covered member' means a member of the Armed Forces (including the reserve components) enrolled in covered education.

"(3) The term 'covered service' means—

"(A) active service or inactive-duty training, as such terms are defined in section 101 of title 10; or

"(B) State active duty, as defined in section 4303 of this title.

"(4) The term 'institution concerned' means, with respect to a covered member, the institution of higher education where the covered member is enrolled in covered education.

"(5) The term 'institution of higher education' has the meaning given such term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

"(6) The term 'period of covered service' means the period beginning on the date on which a covered member enters covered service and ending on the date on which the covered member is released from covered service or dies while in covered service."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents at the beginning of such chapter is

amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3691 the following new item:

“3691A. Withdrawal or leave of absence from certain education.”.

SEC. 3. IMPROVEMENTS TO ASSISTANCE PROVIDED FOR CERTAIN FLIGHT TRAINING AND OTHER PROGRAMS OF EDUCATION.

(a) **USE OF ENTITLEMENT FOR PRIVATE PILOT'S LICENSES.**—Section 3034(d) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1) by striking the semicolon and inserting the following: “and is required for the course of education being pursued (including with respect to a dual major, concentration, or other element a degree); and”;

(2) by striking paragraph (2); and

(3) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2).

(b) **ACCELERATED PAYMENTS FOR FLIGHT TRAINING.**—Section 3313 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(m) **ACCELERATED PAYMENTS FOR CERTAIN FLIGHT TRAINING.**—

“(1) **PAYMENTS.**—An individual enrolled in a program of education pursued at an institution of higher learning in which flight training is required to earn the degree being pursued (including with respect to a dual major, concentration, or other element of such a degree) may elect to receive accelerated payments of amounts for tuition and fees determined under subsection (c). The amount of each accelerated payment shall be an amount equal to twice the amount for tuition and fee so determined under such subsection, but the total amount of such payments may not exceed the total amount of tuition and fees for the program of education. The amount of monthly stipends shall be determined in accordance with such subsection (c) and may not be accelerated under this paragraph.

“(2) **EDUCATIONAL COUNSELING.**—An individual may make an election under paragraph (1) only if the individual receives educational counseling under section 3697A(a) of this title.

“(3) **CHARGE AGAINST ENTITLEMENT.**—The number of months of entitlement charged an individual for accelerated payments made pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be determined at the rate of two months for each month in which such an accelerated payment is made.”.

(c) **FLIGHT TRAINING AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.**—Subsection (c)(1)(A) of such section 3313 is amended—

(1) in clause (i)—

(A) by redesignating subclauses (I) and (II) as items (aa) and (bb), respectively;

(B) by striking “In the case of a program of education pursued at a public institution of higher learning” and inserting “(I) Subject to subclause (II), in the case of a program of education pursued at a public institution of higher learning not described in clause (ii)(II)(bb)”;

(C) by adding at the end the following new subclause:

“(II) In determining the actual net cost for in-State tuition and fees pursuant to subclause (I), the Secretary may not pay for tuition and fees relating to flight training.”; and

(2) in clause (ii)—

(A) in subclause (I), by redesignating items (aa) and (bb) as subitems (AA) and (BB), respectively;

(B) in subclause (II), by redesignating items (aa) and (bb) as subitems (AA) and (BB), respectively;

(C) by redesignating subclauses (I) and (II) as items (aa) and (bb), respectively;

(D) by striking “In the case of a program of education pursued at a non-public or for-

eign institution of higher learning” and inserting “(I) In the case of a program of education described in subclause (II)”;

(E) by adding at the end the following new subclause:

“(II) A program of education described in this subclause is any of the following:

“(aa) A program of education pursued at a non-public or foreign institution of higher learning.

“(bb) A program of education pursued at a public institution of higher learning in which flight training is required to earn the degree being pursued (including with respect to a dual major, concentration, or other element of such a degree).”.

(d) **CERTAIN PROGRAMS OF EDUCATION CARRIED OUT UNDER CONTRACT.**—Section 3313(c)(1)(A)(ii)(II) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (c)(2)(E), is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“(cc) A program of education pursued at a public institution of higher learning in which the public institution of higher learning enters into a contract or agreement with an entity (other than another public institution of higher learning) to provide such program of education or a portion of such program of education.”.

(e) **APPLICATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided by paragraph (2), the amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to a quarter, semester, or term, as applicable, commencing on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) **SPECIAL RULE FOR CURRENT STUDENTS.**—In the case of an individual who, as of the date of the enactment of this Act, is using educational assistance under chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code, to pursue a course of education that includes a program of education described in item (bb) or (cc) of section 3313(c)(1)(A)(ii)(II) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsections (c) and (d), respectively, the amendment made by such subsection shall apply with respect to a quarter, semester, or term, as applicable, commencing on or after the date that is two years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. **TAKANO**) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. **BOST**) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. **TAKANO**. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 5603, as amended.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. **TAKANO**. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5603, as amended, the Protec-

tions for Student Veterans Act, introduced by Representative **UNDERWOOD**.

This bill amends the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, which provides broad protections for Active Duty, reservist, and National Guard servicemembers during deployments.

H.R. 5603, as amended, enhances protections for members of the Armed Forces who must suspend their education to fulfill military orders.

Many States, including Illinois and Washington, have stronger student protections for servicemembers than those that exist at the Federal level. There are currently few Federal protections for members of the armed services who are enrolled in higher education when they receive Active Duty orders. These servicemembers can be held liable to repay tuition and may also receive failing or incomplete grades as a result of suspending their education for military duty.

I hope we can all agree that this is an unfair penalty to those members of the Armed Forces who are preparing for their future through education while also serving our country.

The protections proposed in this bill would cover unexpected withdrawals due to military orders and can provide restoration of benefits and reimbursements for classes.

This bill takes the best practices from around the country to make sure student veterans aren't left with debts or incomplete classes outside their control due to military orders.

This legislation is supported by numerous VSOs, including Student Veterans of America.

I thank Speaker **PELOSI** and Leader **HOYER** for bringing this legislation to the floor, and I urge the rest of my colleagues to support this legislation to protect GI Bill benefits for servicemembers fulfilling their duty to our country.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. **BOST**. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5603, as amended, the Protections for Student Veterans Act.

This bill would protect student veterans who have to withdraw from a course of education under the GI Bill if they are called up for Active Duty or for training. This change would protect students from receiving a poor grade or an incomplete while they are doing their job to protect this country.

The change proposed in this bill is needed, and it has my full support.

I am also pleased that this bill, as amended, includes the text of Congressman **CAWTHORN**'s bill, H.R. 4874, the Fly Vets Act. His bill would close a long-standing loophole that allows public flight training schools to charge an unlimited amount in tuition and fees for GI Bill students.

This bill would allow students to utilize a revolutionary accelerated tuition and fee model that would provide twice the amount of tuition and fees per

month for 2 months of eligibility. This is commonsense legislation that would protect both the student veteran and the taxpayer.

I thank Congressman CAWTHORN for his hard work on this bill. I also thank Congressmen WENSTRUP and LEVIN for their work on this bill in previous Congresses. I hope that this year we can get this needed change across the finish line.

While we are talking about the GI Bill, I would like to take a few minutes to discuss another matter. At least at the start of the pandemic, we worked on a bipartisan effort to ensure that student veterans' GI Bill housing allowance payments are not cut when their in-person classes converted to online learning due to COVID-19. The current authorization expires on December 21, 2021.

Chairman TAKANO and Congressman TRONE are advocating for a bill that extends this protection, but it is not paid for. Instead, it relies on emergency spending to cover the more than \$200 million mandatory score associated with the bill. I believe that is too high of a cost to consider through emergency spending and must insist that we offset the extension.

To that end, I introduced a bill that would achieve the policy objective but pay for the cost of the bill with a regularly used offset.

My bill also includes changes that are needed to ensure that GI Bill students can attend foreign schools. It would also give U.S. schools time to comply with the new reporting requirements passed last Congress.

A coalition of 18 higher education groups has advocated for these changes for several months and support my proposal. They understand that if these changes are not made soon, many schools will be forced to stop accepting students who are using the GI Bill.

I understand the chairman has recently received a letter from the chancellor of the University of California at Riverside, who agrees that this proposal must be offset.

Chancellor Kim A. Wilcox wrote that by passing the bill without an offset, we would be "no closer to a resolution on this critical issue."

The letter goes on to say that passing a bill out of the House without an offset "will jeopardize UCR's ability to continue to serve our veteran students."

The chancellor also stated that this fall UC Riverside supported hundreds of military-connected students, including about 179 veterans who could be impacted by inaction.

Unless I am mistaken, UC Riverside is in Chairman TAKANO's district.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the letter from Chancellor Wilcox.

UC RIVERSIDE,
OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR,
Riverside, CA, November 12, 2021.

Hon. MARK TAKANO,
U.S. Representative,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE TAKANO: I understand that you are planning to bring H.R.

5545, the Responsible Education Mitigating Options and Technical Extensions (RE-MOTE) Act, up for a vote in the House next week. The bill includes critical technical corrections to address unintended consequences stemming from several provisions in the Isakson Roe Act and the Training in High-Demand Roles to Improve Veteran Employment (THRIVE) Act that went into effect on August 1, 2021. The bill would also extend certain COVID-related flexibilities granted to the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in the wake of the pandemic.

As the bill is currently written, however, it does not include an offset for the approximately \$200 million cost for the extension of COVID-19 flexibilities. I am deeply concerned that without the inclusion of an offset, the bill will not be able to pass the Senate by unanimous consent and we will be no closer to a resolution on this critical issue.

During the Fall of 2021, UC Riverside served 179 Veterans, 37 Reservists, 11 National Guard, and 15 Active Duty self-identified members of the U.S. military branches. Designated as a "Military Spouse Friendly" campus, UCR served over 350 dependents, and have utilized over \$6M in Veterans benefits.

Without an offset for the extension of COVID-19 flexibilities, it will jeopardize UCR's ability to continue to serve our Veteran Students, due to the compliance issues that require fixes. I would also urge you to include language to modify VA's current "rounding out" rule to ensure that more veterans can maintain full-time benefits during the last term of their program.

I respectfully request that your staff work to pass bipartisan legislation next week that addresses these concerns and can be quickly passed through both chambers and signed into law.

Sincerely,

KIM A. WILCOX,
Chancellor.

□ 1300

Mr. BOST. At our full committee markup 2 weeks ago, I urged Chairman TAKANO to work with me and our Senate colleagues to find a way forward on the offset issue on a bipartisan basis.

However, last week I was told that Congressman TRONE's bill would be on the slate of bills, but the cost would not be offset. I registered my concern and was glad to see that the un-offset bill will not be considered under suspension of the rules today.

I do understand, however, that the majority intends to take Congressman TRONE's bill to the Rules Committee the week after next and pass it out of the House un-offset through a rule.

Let me be clear, I support the policy, but I believe the cost of the bill must be offset. Schools like UC Riverside clearly agree with me. Even if the Democrats are able to get Congressman TRONE's un-offset bill through the House—and that is a big "if"—I don't believe that they can pass it in the Senate by unanimous consent.

It is the responsibility of the leaders of our committee to solve this issue so that the bill can quickly make it to the President's desk. Although the chairman may not like it, my approach is the only way to get this done in time to help students in a fiscally responsible manner.

The higher education community has told us that this extension needs to be

enacted by Thanksgiving. I think we can see that under the majority's current plan, the deadline will be missed. After Thanksgiving we have only 9 legislative days left before these protections expire. We are simply running out of time.

I do not have a preference for whether we take up my bill or amend Congressman TRONE's bill to include the offset, but I urge the chairman to come back to reality and stop playing political games with it so that we can ensure that student veterans are protected in a fiscally sound manner.

At the very least, I would advise the chairman not to let this inaction impact thousands of student veterans across the country, including the 179 right there in his own district.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am distressed that the ranking member has chosen this particular moment to inject comments about the REMOTE Act, sponsored by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. TRONE), and to imply that there is obstruction in taking action to help our veterans, our student veterans, with their housing allowances—which we took action on during the pandemic, which still we are not completely out of yet. I would argue that we are still in a national emergency. We are seeing COVID infections rise in Europe, and we are seeing vaccine resistance and hesitancy in many parts of the country, which still necessitate the need for a policy which allows for student veterans to still get their housing allowances while they are taking classes virtually.

I will remind the minority that three times under the Trump administration, we passed something like the REMOTE Act, the authority to allow student veterans to receive their housing allowances while taking virtual classes. They were not in residence at the school where they would do in-person learning. We allowed this three times under emergency spending. Why? Because emergency spending fits the moment. And it still fits the moment. This nonsense about we have to pay for something that should be an emergency is nonsense.

I recall times on this floor when we had Members arguing that we should not pay for the damage done for hurricanes in one State because it didn't happen to the rest of the States, that we need to find a pay-for for hurricane damage in this country and for certain other kinds of natural disasters.

A pandemic is a type of natural disaster. In this case, it has killed 700,000 Americans. I would argue that we saved lives, and we relieved a lot of suffering of our veterans who would have been turned out in the streets if we did not give them this housing allowance.

And now at the eleventh hour when we intended to bring Representative TRONE's bill to the floor, suddenly we had to meet a pay-for demand of the

minority, and to set a precedent for future disasters that we would have to have this very argument.

Instead of the precedent being that we spend emergency funds for emergency situations, we now are in a situation where the minority is arguing a ridiculous ideological argument about how we pay for things during a time of a national emergency.

I am disappointed that the minority has brought up its objections and also sought to use my University of California, Riverside as part of this pawn. I just received a message from my chancellor correcting the position that they took on their public letter. They are the only university to submit such a detailed letter regarding the pay-for. No other university has sought to take that position. I have questions as to how my university reached a point where they issued such a letter so that it could be used on the floor. I now have a correction that was issued to me just hours before.

This is about America's veterans, and this is about serving America's veterans during an emergency situation in which 700,000 Americans have already died. I want to keep those veterans safe. I want to keep them in housing. And, yes, I believe it is appropriate to keep the precedent of using emergency funding and not have this silly political gamesmanship over the pay-for.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, paying for something and doing the job that we are supposed to be doing here is not political gamesmanship.

I said in my statement that I believe that we must continue to provide for these veterans, but it is our fiduciary duty to do it in the correct way. That is what I am asking for. I am also asking for it because that way we know it will move through the Senate and work in a bipartisan, bicameral manner to try to move it forward.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I will just reply that it is political gamesmanship. I hate seeing universities used as pawns in this game. I hate seeing our student veterans being used as pawns.

What is at stake here is the principle, the precedent that this Congress will pay for emergencies out of emergency funding. The need to help our veterans, who must take their classes remotely, pay for their housing because of the national emergency that we are still in, is part of a precedent that we need to preserve.

This is not a political game to me. This is about protecting our veterans. This is about protecting our Nation in the future.

The idea that when a national disaster, whether it occurs in the form of a hurricane, an earthquake, or some other calamity like a pandemic that has killed 700,000 Americans, that the

principle stands that that is an emergency and that we as a Nation stand together as one American from whatever State we are in to help an American in another State, even though that disaster didn't happen in that State. But this disaster was omnipresent throughout our country. I don't understand the logic.

Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to support the underlying bill that was discussed. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in passing this very important legislation, H.R. 5603, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5603, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROTECTING MOMS WHO SERVED ACT OF 2021

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 796) to codify maternity care coordination programs at the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 796

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Protecting Moms Who Served Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **MATERNAL MORTALITY.**—The term "maternal mortality" means a death occurring during pregnancy or within a one-year period after pregnancy that is caused by pregnancy-related or childbirth complications, including suicide, overdose, or other death resulting from a mental health or substance use disorder attributed to or aggravated by pregnancy-related or childbirth complications.

(2) **POSTPARTUM.**—The term "postpartum", with respect to an individual, means the one-year period beginning on the last day of the pregnancy of the individual.

(3) **PREGNANCY-ASSOCIATED DEATH.**—The term "pregnancy-associated death" means the death of a pregnant or postpartum individual, by any cause, that occurs during pregnancy or within one year following pregnancy, regardless of the outcome, duration, or site of the pregnancy.

(4) **PREGNANCY-RELATED DEATH.**—The term "pregnancy-related death" means the death of a pregnant or postpartum individual that occurs during pregnancy or within one year following pregnancy from a pregnancy complication, a chain of events initiated by pregnancy, or the aggravation of an unrelated condition by the physiologic effects of pregnancy.

(5) **RACIAL AND ETHNIC MINORITY GROUP.**—The term "racial and ethnic minority group" has the meaning given that term in section 1707(g)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300u-6(g)(1)).

(6) **SEVERE MATERNAL MORBIDITY.**—The term "severe maternal morbidity" means a health condition, including a mental health condition or substance use disorder, attributed to or aggravated by pregnancy or childbirth that results in significant short-term or long-term consequences to the health of the individual who was pregnant.

SEC. 3. SUPPORT BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OF MATERNITY CARE COORDINATION.

(a) **PROGRAM ON MATERNITY CARE COORDINATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out the maternity care coordination program described in Veterans Health Administration Directive 1330.03.

(2) **TRAINING AND SUPPORT.**—In carrying out the program under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall provide to community maternity care providers training and support with respect to the unique needs of pregnant and postpartum veterans, particularly regarding mental and behavioral health conditions relating to the service of those veterans in the Armed Forces.

(b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2022 for the program under subsection (a)(1).

(2) **SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.**—Amounts authorized under paragraph (1) are authorized in addition to any other amounts authorized for maternity health care and coordination for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **COMMUNITY MATERNITY CARE PROVIDERS.**—The term "community maternity care providers" means maternity care providers located at non-Department facilities who provide maternity care to veterans under section 1703 of title 38, United States Code, or any other law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

(2) **NON-DEPARTMENT FACILITIES.**—The term "non-Department facilities" has the meaning given that term in section 1701 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 4. REPORT ON MATERNAL MORTALITY AND SEVERE MATERNAL MORBIDITY AMONG PREGNANT AND POSTPARTUM VETERANS.

(a) **GAO REPORT.**—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives, and make publicly available, a report on maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity among pregnant and postpartum veterans, with a particular focus on racial and ethnic disparities in maternal health outcomes for veterans.

(b) **MATTERS INCLUDED.**—The report under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) To the extent practicable—

(A) the number of pregnant and postpartum veterans who have experienced a pregnancy-related death or pregnancy-associated death in the most recent 10 years of available data;

(B) the rate of pregnancy-related deaths per 100,000 live births for pregnant and postpartum veterans;

(C) the number of cases of severe maternal morbidity among pregnant and postpartum veterans in the most recent year of available data;

(D) an assessment of the racial and ethnic disparities in maternal mortality and severe

maternal morbidity rates among pregnant and postpartum veterans;

(E) identification of the causes of maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity that are unique to veterans, including post-traumatic stress disorder, military sexual trauma, and infertility or miscarriages that may be caused by service in the Armed Forces;

(F) identification of the causes of maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity that are unique to veterans from racial and ethnic minority groups and such other at-risk populations as the Comptroller General considers appropriate;

(G) identification of any correlations between the former rank of veterans and their maternal health outcomes;

(H) the number of veterans who have been diagnosed with infertility by a health care provider of the Veterans Health Administration each year in the most recent five years, disaggregated by age, race, ethnicity, sex, marital status, and geographical location;

(I) the number of veterans who have received a clinical diagnosis of unexplained infertility by a health care provider of the Veterans Health Administration each year in the most recent five years; and

(J) an assessment of the extent to which the rate of incidence of clinically diagnosed infertility among veterans compare or differ to the rate of incidence of clinically diagnosed infertility among the civilian population.

(2) An assessment of the barriers to determining the information required under paragraph (1) and recommendations for improvements in tracking maternal health outcomes among pregnant and postpartum veterans who—

(A) have health care coverage through the Department;

(B) are enrolled in the TRICARE program (as defined in section 1072 of title 10, United States Code);

(C) have employer-based or private insurance;

(D) are enrolled in the Medicaid program under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.);

(E) are eligible to receive health care furnished by—

(i) the Indian Health Service;

(ii) Tribal health programs; or

(iii) urban Indian organizations; or

(F) are uninsured.

(3) Recommendations for legislative and administrative actions to increase access to mental and behavioral health care for pregnant and postpartum veterans who screen positively for maternal mental or behavioral health conditions.

(4) Recommendations to address homelessness, food insecurity, poverty, and related issues among pregnant and postpartum veterans.

(5) Recommendations on how to effectively educate maternity care providers on best practices for providing maternity care services to veterans that addresses the unique maternal health care needs of veteran populations.

(6) Recommendations to reduce maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity among pregnant and postpartum veterans and to address racial and ethnic disparities in maternal health outcomes for each of the groups described in subparagraphs (A) through (F) of paragraph (2).

(7) Recommendations to improve coordination of care between the Department and non-Department facilities for pregnant and postpartum veterans, including recommendations to improve—

(A) health record interoperability; and

(B) training for the directors of the Veterans Integrated Service Networks, directors

of medical facilities of the Department, chiefs of staff of such facilities, maternity care coordinators, and staff of relevant non-Department facilities.

(8) An assessment of the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to access maternal health data collected by the Department of Health and Human Services and, if applicable, recommendations to increase such authority.

(9) To the extent applicable, an assessment of potential causes of or explanations for lower maternal mortality rates among veterans who have health care coverage through the Department of Veterans Affairs compared to maternal mortality rates in the general population of the United States.

(10) Any other information the Comptroller General determines appropriate with respect to the reduction of maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity among pregnant and postpartum veterans and to address racial and ethnic disparities in maternal health outcomes for veterans.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms “Tribal health program” and “urban Indian organization” have the meanings given those terms in section 4 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1603).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on S. 796.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 796, the Protecting Moms Who Served Act of 2021, sponsored by Senator TAMMY DUCKWORTH. The House companion to this bill, H.R. 958, was championed by the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. UNDERWOOD) and unanimously passed the House this past May.

The Protecting Moms Who Served Act of 2021 will codify the maternity care coordination program that the Veterans Health Administration first established in 2012 and updated in a November 2020 policy directive. This will help ensure that veterans across the Nation receive high-quality, culturally competent healthcare throughout their pregnancies and immediately afterward.

The majority of veterans' maternity care is delivered by a contracted network of non-VA community providers. However, many veterans have coexisting medical or mental health conditions for which they receive ongoing care from VA providers. This means it is absolutely critical to ensure pregnant veterans' care is coordinated among all healthcare professionals involved in it. Such information sharing is crucial for patient safety and positive health outcomes—for parents and newborns.

In addition to codifying VA's maternity care coordination program, S. 796 will require the Department to provide training for community providers on the unique needs of pregnant and postpartum veterans and on behavioral health conditions related to service in the Armed Forces.

Today, women veterans are the fastest growing cohort in the veteran population, and more than 40 percent of women veterans using VA healthcare are of reproductive age. Black women serve in higher numbers and represent nearly one-third of women using VA for their healthcare.

In the population at large, Black, American Indian, and Alaska Native moms die from pregnancy-related complications at approximately three times the rate of White, Latina, Asian American, and Pacific Islander women, regardless of income or education levels.

However, little is known about whether pregnant and postpartum veterans have better, worse, or equal rates of maternal mortality compared to nonveterans. That is why S. 796 also mandates a U.S. Government Accountability Office study on maternal mortality and morbidity among pregnant and postpartum veterans, with a particular focus on racial and ethnic disparities in maternal health outcomes for veterans.

Last year, approximately 6,000 veterans using VA became new moms. Moms who have served our Nation exemplify strength and resilience. Supporting moms means ensuring gender equity, and that begins with healthcare equity. I therefore ask my colleagues to join me in supporting final passage of S. 796, the Protecting Moms Who Served Act of 2021.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 796, the Protecting Moms Who Served Act.

This bill would require VA to improve the care that is provided to veterans who are pregnant. More and more women are volunteering to serve in the military and seeking services from VA as veterans.

As they grow their families, VA must provide them with high-quality, easy-to-access, pre- and postpartum care.

Strengthening services to women veterans is one of my priorities as the lead Republican on this committee, and I am proud to help do that by supporting this bill today.

I thank Illinois Senator TAMMY DUCKWORTH for sponsoring this bill on behalf of our fellow veterans. I urge my colleagues to support it today.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in passing this important piece of legislation, S. 796, the Protecting Moms Who Served Act of 2021, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in strong support of the bipartisan legislation, Protecting Moms Who Served Act.

But before I do, I want to thank Congresswoman LAUREN UNDERWOOD for her leadership on this bill. I would also like to thank Senator DUCKWORTH and Representatives JULIA BROWNLEY, GUS BILIRAKIS, and BRIAN FITZPATRICK for their co-leadership.

Together, Congresswoman UNDERWOOD and I are the co-founders and co-chairs of the Black Maternal Health Caucus, as well as lead sponsors of the Omnibus—comprehensive legislation that addresses every dimension of the maternal health crisis in the United States.

And it gives me great joy to say that the Protecting Moms Who Served Act will be the first bill of the Omnibus to pass in Congress.

The United States continues to have the highest maternal mortality rates in the developed world. Women and birthing people of color die during or after pregnancy at 3 to 4 times the rates of their White counterparts.

For the nearly 2 million women Veterans, maternal health outcomes are not any better. Pregnant and postpartum women who served face unique maternal health risks that deserve our attention.

For example, the risk of pregnancy complications may be higher for women Veterans receiving maternity care through Veterans Affairs, since these women frequently have multiple medical conditions that can increase pregnancy complications.

Furthermore, it is suggested that military deployment may increase the risk of post-traumatic stress disorder or PTSD. A post-traumatic stress disorder diagnosis can increase the risk of spontaneous pre-term birth, preeclampsia, or gestational diabetes.

Women Veterans with more symptoms of PTSD or moral injury like shame, guilt, or demoralization, are also at greater risk for postpartum depression in the three years following the end of their military service.

More specifically a study on the impacts of PTSD or moral injury, found that one in two women Veterans who became pregnant during the study, had a negative pregnancy outcome.

These outcomes include postpartum depression or anxiety, miscarriage, obstetrical medical conditions, emergency c-sections, the baby's need for intensive care post-delivery, preterm birth, stillbirth, and ectopic or tubal pregnancy.

Our women Veterans have upheld their duty to serve and protect and, we as Members of Congress must do the same.

The Protecting Moms Who Served Act will codify and strengthen the Department of Veterans Affairs maternity care coordination programs to ensure Veterans receive the high-quality maternal health care and support they have earned.

This is a noteworthy advancement since maternity care coordination programs are associated with improved maternal and birth outcomes, increased use of beneficial health services, and decreased costs, especially among women with chronic or pregnancy-related physical or mental health conditions, or social vulnerabilities.

Additionally, this bill will commission the first-ever comprehensive study of America's maternal health crisis among women Veterans, with a particular emphasis on racial and ethnic disparities.

This study is needed to provide further understanding of the maternal health challenges experienced among women who served.

On May 12th, this legislation passed the house with unanimous bipartisan support.

Today, we are here to vote once more and finally send this bill to the President's desk, changing the lives of millions of women Veterans and their children.

Let's remember that strong and supportive healthcare for birthing people supports the future of our Nation by investing in the well-being of children and families.

And today's vote ensures a healthcare system for women Veterans that will offer the best maternal care available.

I am proud to see our progress towards ending maternal mortality and disparities among our moms who served. I look forward to continuing to address these issues in Congress as we examine and discuss the maternal mortality and morbidity issues that threaten our Nation.

To all my colleagues—lets pass the Protecting Moms Who Served Act for our women Veterans, their children, and their families.

What we do here today will live beyond our time in Congress and impact generations of women who serve.

It is time we make sure that Veterans, who have done so much for our country, receive the support and resources they need.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 796.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

□ 1315

STUDENT VETERANS COUNSELING CENTERS ELIGIBILITY ACT

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4233) to amend title 38, United States Code, to furnish Vet Center readjustment counseling and related mental health services to veterans and members of the Armed Forces using certain educational assistance benefits.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4233

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Student Veterans Counseling Centers Eligibility Act".

SEC. 2. EXPANSION OF VET CENTER SERVICES.

(a) VETERANS AND MEMBERS USING EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE BENEFITS.—Section 1712A of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking "clauses (i) through (vi)" both places it appears and inserting "clauses (i) through (vii)";

(2) by striking "in clause (vii)" both places it appears and inserting "in clause (viii)";

(3) in subsection (a)(1)(C)—

(A) by redesignating clause (vii) as clause (viii); and

(B) by inserting after clause (vi) the following new clause:

"(vii) Any veteran or member of the Armed Forces pursuing a course of education using covered educational assistance benefits."; and

(4) in subsection (h), by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(6) The term 'covered educational assistance benefits' means educational assistance benefits provided pursuant to—

"(A) chapters 30, 31, 32, or 33 of this title;

"(B) chapters 1606 or 1607 of title 10;

"(C) section 116 of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-48; 38 U.S.C. 3001 note); or

"(D) section 8006 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-2; 38 U.S.C. 3001 note prec.)."

(b) GAO REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report assessing—

(1) the mental health needs of veterans pursuing a course of education using covered educational assistance benefits (as defined in section 1712A(h)(6) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)); and

(2) the efforts of the Department of Veterans Affairs to address such mental health needs.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 20 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 4233.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4233, the Student Veterans Counseling Centers Eligibility Act from Congressman MURPHY.

We all know that student veterans may face challenges as they begin this new phase of their lives following military service, and we want them to be able to seek and find support at vet centers.

We also encourage VA to continue monitoring the need for increased funding, staffing, and resources for vet centers as a result of demand for these services.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 4233, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4233, the Student Veterans Counseling Centers Eligibility Act.

This bill would allow student veterans to access readjustment counseling and peer support services at vet centers.

Student veterans have unique needs and stressors. This bill would help them get the support they require to thrive in school and in their post-military lives.

I am grateful to my good friend and committee colleague, Dr. GREG MURPHY, for introducing this bill. I thank him for his leadership on behalf of student veterans, and I am confident this bill would benefit them for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I urge every one of my colleagues to support H.R. 4233 today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MURPHY), the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bipartisan bill, H.R. 4233, the Student Veterans Counseling Centers Eligibility Act.

The issue to which I will speak is exceedingly personal to me and my district, as I represent close to 90,000 veterans, most of whom are or will be receiving benefits via the Post-9/11 GI Bill or the Montgomery GI Bill.

The transition from Active Duty to civilian life can be challenging for some of our servicemembers. It can be tremendously difficult for many of our servicemembers to return to education after sacrificing so much for our Nation abroad. This is especially true for older and nontraditional student veterans.

A few months ago, alongside Ranking Member BOST, I had the privilege of introducing the Student Veterans Counseling Centers Eligibility Act. It passed out of the Veterans' Affairs Committee with a unanimous vote.

Our Nation's veterans represent the very best among us here in the United States, but many serve at great personal cost. A recent RAND study reported that 20 percent of veterans on the GI Bill experience feelings of depression or PTSD. That 20 percent amounts to over 170,000 veterans, which is almost double the number I mentioned previously of the veterans I represent in my district.

As one can imagine, serving as a member of our Armed Forces can be extremely stressful. Too often, we see the tragedy of our veterans losing their battle with mental health issues when returning from service. A very tragic and somber fact is that the VA currently estimates 18 veterans a day commit suicide. In fact, 46 percent of our military students report suicidal thoughts compared to only 6 percent of their nonmilitary peers.

If we can provide mental health services to assist just a single veteran who is struggling, then I believe it is our sworn duty to do so. We have the opportunity now with the Student Vet-

erans Counseling Centers Eligibility Act.

Education poses one of the most beneficial yet stressful areas of transition for our veterans. The intention of this bill is to aid more of our veterans who are readjusting to civilian lives while providing overdue access to vital mental health resources.

Helping veterans succeed in their education and civilian lives is one of the most important ways we can thank them for their service.

I have spoken with some of these student veterans. I have heard their stories. These student veterans have had to wait weeks to even months for a mental health appointment if their mental health crisis was not deemed urgent. Unfortunately, many of our veterans do not have the luxury of weeks or months to wait to see a mental health provider.

Furthermore, private mental health can be inaccessible for those not utilizing the benefits of the GI Bill. An average therapy session could cost between \$60 to \$120, with the higher end reaching over \$250 per session. Even with health insurance, premiums often can be \$50 per session.

The Student Veterans Counseling Centers Eligibility Act would provide expanded counseling and mental health services to those student veterans through the VA's Readjustment Counseling Centers, known as vet centers.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am extremely honored and proud to sponsor this bill, and I am grateful to Ranking Member BOST for his support as an original cosponsor and to all of my Republican and Democratic colleagues who have come together to support this very critical bipartisan legislation.

I am also thankful to the Student Veterans of America for their support.

I ask all Members for bipartisan support.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 4233, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4233.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

BRINGING REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIPS TO VETERANS EDUCATION ACT

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 147) to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements to transitional services for separating members of the Armed Forces and educational assistance under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 147

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Bringing Registered Apprenticeships to Veterans Education Act" or the "BRAVE Act".

SEC. 2. EDUCATION FOR SEPARATING MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES REGARDING REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIPS.

Section 1144(b)(1) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting "(including apprenticeship programs registered under the Act of August 16, 1937 (50 Stat. 664; commonly referred to as the 'National Apprenticeship Act') and approved under chapters 30 through 36 of title 38)" after "employment opportunities".

SEC. 3. WEBSITES REGARDING APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS.

(a) WEBSITE UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF SECRETARY OF LABOR.—The Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training, in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall establish a user-friendly website (or update an existing website) that is available to the public on which veterans can find information about apprenticeship programs registered under the Act of August 16, 1937 (50 Stat. 664; commonly referred to as the "National Apprenticeship Act") and approved under chapters 30 through 36 of title 38, United States Code. Such information shall be searchable and sortable by occupation and location, and include, with regard to each such program, the following:

- (1) A description, including any cost to a veteran.
- (2) Contact information.
- (3) Whether the program has been endorsed by a veterans service organization or nonprofit organization that caters to veterans.
- (4) Whether the program prefers to hire veterans.
- (5) Each certification or degree an individual earns by completing the program.

(b) COORDINATION WITH OTHER WEBSITE.—The Assistant Secretary shall update all information regarding programs for veterans listed on apprenticeship.gov (or any successor website) to include the information specified under subsection (a).

SEC. 4. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled "Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation" for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 147, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 147, the Bringing Registered Apprenticeships to Veterans Education Act, or BRAVE Act, as amended.

This bill increases access to information regarding registered apprenticeships for veterans. Registered apprenticeships are an important component of our workforce system. They provide on-the-job training with an employer that teaches workers the practical and theoretical skills they need to succeed in a field, all while earning a paycheck.

The Department of Labor validates registered apprenticeships to ensure that participants are receiving high-quality instruction and training.

At the end of their program, apprentices receive a national, industry-recognized credential in their field.

This bill would require the Department of Labor to improve access to registered apprenticeships for transitioning servicemembers and veterans by maintaining a searchable website that connects them with employer programs that are endorsed by VSOs and other veteran-specific groups.

Registered apprenticeships provide a unique pathway into in-demand, high-quality jobs, and the BRAVE Act will make it easier for veterans to learn and earn when training for their careers.

This legislation is supported by numerous VSOs, including Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Paralyzed Veterans of America.

I thank Speaker PELOSI and Leader HOYER for bringing this legislation to the floor, and I urge the rest of my colleagues to support this legislation to improve employability for veterans through apprenticeships.

I also thank Chairman ADAM SMITH of the House Armed Services Committee, who has agreed to forgo committee action on H.R. 147, as amended, so that it can be considered on the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, November 15, 2021.

Hon. ADAM SMITH,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SMITH: I write concerning H.R. 147 as amended, the Bringing Registered Apprenticeships to Veterans Education Act or the BRAVE Act. I appreciate your willing-

ness to work cooperatively on this legislation.

I acknowledge that provisions of the bill fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Armed Services under House Rule X, and that your Committee will forgo action on H.R. 147 to expedite floor consideration. I further acknowledge that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the matters contained in the bill that fall within your jurisdiction. I will also support the appointment of Committee on Armed Services conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation.

Lastly, I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. Thank you again for your cooperation regarding the legislation. I look forward to continuing to work with you as the measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

MARK TAKANO,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
Washington, DC, November 15, 2021.

Hon. MARK TAKANO,
Chairman, Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. TAKANO: I write concerning H.R. 147 as amended, the Bringing Registered Apprenticeships to Veterans Education Act or the BRAVE Act. As a result of your having consulted with us on provisions within H.R. 147 that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I forego any further consideration of this bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

The Committee on Armed Services takes this action with our mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 147 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over subject matter contained in this or similar legislation and that our committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues in our jurisdiction. Further, I request your support for the appointment of conferees from the Committee on Armed Services during any House-Senate conference convened on this or related legislation.

Please place a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging our jurisdictional interest into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

ADAM SMITH,
Chairman.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 147, as amended, the BRAVE Act.

Every year, nearly 200,000 servicemen and -women transition out of Active Duty and into the civilian sector.

This bill would require the Department of Defense to provide information on apprenticeship programs to separating servicemembers who are practicing in the Transition Assistance Program.

The BRAVE Act would also require the Department of Labor to establish a website that includes information on national apprenticeships and those ap-

proved for the GI Bill benefits so it is readily available to the transitioning servicemembers.

Last month's unemployment numbers showed that while the unemployment rate for nonveterans decreased, the unemployment rate for veterans increased slightly. This is concerning, and I am hopeful that improving the way that we provide information to our veterans about available apprenticeships may provide veterans with more opportunity for great jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support H.R. 147, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. NORCROSS), my good friend and the author of this legislation. Congressman NORCROSS serves on the House Armed Services Committee; Education and Labor Committee; and the Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

This is National Apprenticeship Week, and what better time for the passage of H.R. 147, the BRAVE Act.

I am a product of a registered apprenticeship program and the father of a veteran.

The Bringing Registered Apprenticeships to Veterans Education Act, or the BRAVE Act, would help those returning veterans find good-paying jobs and careers.

When we send our servicemembers to war, we train them and equip them, and we give them the skills they need to protect and defend the United States. We do this because we want them to succeed wherever they are needed, be it on the battlefield or rendering humanitarian assistance around the world. They deserve the same level of support when they leave the service and transition back to civilian life.

One of the best ways to help our vets transition is by providing them meaningful work opportunities or careers. Registered apprenticeships are one of the best ways, if not the best way, in the history of the United States for people to gain those skills. Registered apprenticeships allow the returning soldier to earn while they learn in-demand skills that are so desperately needed for family-sustaining careers.

Ninety-two percent of those who complete a registered apprenticeship program stay employed, and the average salary for graduates is \$72,000. That is nearly \$20,000 more than the average college graduate, with no student debt.

The BRAVE Act will connect veterans to these resources, helping them to transition to fulfilling civilian careers.

It is fitting that the vote for the BRAVE Act takes place during National Apprenticeship Week.

I urge all of my colleagues to support our veterans in their pursuit of a good career and a good-paying job by voting for the BRAVE Act.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to support this

bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 147, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 147, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

□ 1330

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON UNITED STATES OUTLYING AREAS AND FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3730) to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs an Advisory Committee on United States Outlying Areas and Freely Associated States, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3730

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON UNITED STATES OUTLYING AREAS AND FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 5 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 548. Advisory Committee on United States Outlying Areas and Freely Associated States

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish an advisory committee, to be known as the ‘Advisory Committee on United States Outlying Areas and Freely Associated States’, to provide advice and guidance to the Secretary on matters relating to covered veterans.

“(b) DUTIES.—The duties of the Committee shall be the following:

“(1) To advise the Secretary on matters relating to covered veterans, including how the Secretary can improve the programs and services of the Department to better serve such veterans.

“(2) To identify for the Secretary evolving issues of relevance to covered veterans.

“(3) To propose clarifications, recommendations, and solutions to address issues raised by covered veterans.

“(4) To provide a forum for covered veterans, veterans service organizations serving covered veterans, and the Department to dis-

cuss issues and proposals for changes to regulations, policies, and procedures of the Department.

“(5) To identify priorities for and provide advice to the Secretary on appropriate strategies for consultation with veterans service organizations serving covered veterans.

“(6) To encourage the Secretary to work with other departments and agencies of the Federal Government and Congress to ensure covered veterans are provided the full benefits of their status as covered veterans.

“(7) To highlight contributions of covered veterans in the Armed Forces.

“(8) To conduct other duties as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

“(c) MEMBERSHIP.—(1) The Committee shall be comprised of 15 voting members appointed by the Secretary.

“(2) In appointing members pursuant to paragraph (1), the Secretary shall ensure the following:

“(A) At least one member is appointed to represent covered veterans in each of the following areas:

“(i) American Samoa.

“(ii) Guam.

“(iii) Puerto Rico.

“(iv) The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

“(v) The Virgin Islands of the United States.

“(vi) The Federated States of Micronesia.

“(vii) The Republic of the Marshall Islands.

“(viii) The Republic of Palau.

“(B) Not fewer than half of the members appointed are covered veterans, unless the Secretary determines that an insufficient number of qualified covered veterans are available.

“(C) Each member appointed resides in an area specified in subparagraph (A).

“(3) In appointing members pursuant to paragraph (1), the Secretary may consult with any Member of Congress who represents an area specified in paragraph (2)(A).

“(d) TERMS; VACANCIES.—(1) A member of the Committee shall be appointed for a term of two years.

“(2) Not later than 180 days after receiving notice of a vacancy in the Committee, the Secretary shall fill the vacancy in the same manner as the original appointment.

“(e) MEETING FORMAT AND FREQUENCY.—(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Committee shall meet in-person with the Secretary not less frequently than twice each year and hold monthly conference calls as necessary.

“(2) Meetings held under paragraph (1) may be conducted virtually during a public health emergency declared by the Secretary of Health and Human Services pursuant to section 319 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d) or any renewal of such declaration.

“(f) ADDITIONAL REPRESENTATION.—(1) Representatives of relevant departments and agencies of the Federal Government may attend meetings of the Committee and provide information to the Committee.

“(2) One representative of the Department shall attend each meeting of the Committee.

“(3) Representatives attending meetings under this subsection—

“(A) shall not be considered voting members of the Committee; and

“(B) may not receive additional compensation for services performed with respect to the Committee.

“(g) SUBCOMMITTEES.—(1) The Committee may establish subcommittees.

“(2) The Secretary may, in consultation with the Committee, appoint a member to a subcommittee established under paragraph (1) who is not a member of the Committee.

“(3) A subcommittee established under paragraph (1) may enhance the function of

the Committee, but may not supersede the authority of the Committee or provide direct advice or work products to the Secretary.

“(h) REPORTS.—(1) Not less frequently than once each year, the Committee shall submit to the Secretary and the appropriate committees of Congress a report containing such recommendations as the Committee may have for legislative or administrative action.

“(2) Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Secretary receives a report under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a written response to the report after—

“(A) giving the Committee an opportunity to review such written response; and

“(B) including in such written response any comments the Committee considers appropriate.

“(3) Not less frequently than once every two years, the Committee shall submit to the Secretary and the appropriate committees of Congress a report describing the activities of the Committee during the previous two years.

“(4) The Secretary shall make publicly available on an internet website of the Department—

“(A) each report the Secretary receives under paragraph (1);

“(B) each written response the Secretary submits under paragraph (2); and

“(C) each report the Secretary receives under paragraph (3).

“(i) COMMITTEE PERSONNEL MATTERS.—A member of the Committee shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for an employee of an agency under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5 while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of the duties of the Committee.

“(j) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall consult with veterans service organizations serving covered veterans.

“(k) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT EXEMPTION.—Section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Committee.

“(l) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘appropriate committees of Congress’ means—

“(A) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

“(B) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate.

“(2) The term ‘Committee’ means the Advisory Committee on United States Outlying Areas and Freely Associated States established under subsection (a).

“(3) The term ‘covered veteran’ means a veteran residing in an area specified in subsection (c)(2)(A).

“(4) The term ‘veterans service organization serving covered veterans’ means any organization that—

“(A) serves the interests of covered veterans;

“(B) has covered veterans in substantive and policymaking positions within the organization; and

“(C) has demonstrated experience working with covered veterans.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 5 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 547 the following new item:

“548. Advisory Committee on United States Outlying Areas and Freely Associated States.”.

(b) DEADLINE FOR ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish the advisory

committee required by section 548 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)(1) of this section.

(c) **DEADLINE FOR INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.**—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Secretary establishes the advisory committee required by such section 548, the Secretary shall appoint the members of such advisory committee.

(d) **INITIAL MEETING.**—Not later than 120 days after the date on which the Secretary establishes the advisory committee required by such section 548, such advisory committee shall hold its first meeting.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 20 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 3730, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation, H.R. 3730, sponsored by Mr. SABLAN and Mrs. RADEWAGEN, which would create an advisory committee on veterans living in outlying areas and freely associated States, including island territories.

The advisory committee would have a variety of members, including experts from the covered geographic areas. The Secretary will be able to consult regularly with, and receive the input of, this advisory committee regarding the administration of benefits and VA programs. Once established, the advisory committee will report annually on the needs of the covered veterans and provide much-needed recommendations.

This bipartisan legislation is supported by the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Minority Veterans of America, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3730, to create a VA advisory committee on better serving veterans' needs in the territories. For a number of Congresses, Congresswoman RADEWAGEN, Congresswoman GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Congressman SABLAN, and other delegates from the territories have honorably served their veterans and constituents.

Committee staff has traveled with many of our delegates and colleagues to the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, and Puerto Rico. We have seen firsthand the disparities and the difficulties that their veterans face when trying to access healthcare and benefits from the VA.

The combination of limited transportation options, the lack of local re-

sources, the overlapping Federal agency jurisdictions, and the complexities around VA care in neighboring foreign nations make the territories different from the rest of the Nation and difficult to work in.

Unfortunately, the challenges that the veterans in the territories face always seem to slide down to the bottom of VA's priority list.

While I am generally skeptical of new advisory committees, I believe the voices of the veterans in the territories are not being heard, and I share Congresswoman RADEWAGEN's and Congressman SABLAN's goal of elevating their needs.

For those reasons, I support the bill, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN), my good friend and valued member of the Committee on Veteran Affairs, who serves on the Health Subcommittee.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, my bipartisan legislation, H.R. 3730, creates a VA advisory committee for marginalized veterans living in the Marianas, the other United States insular areas, and in the freely associated States. Veterans in my district, especially, and in the other insular areas, too, face barriers to VA services no vet should be forced to endure.

In Northern Marianas, there are no VA clinics and no Vet Centers.

Veterans in my district sometimes fly 3,700 miles to Hawaii or over 6,000 miles to California to access VA services. And that is why my bill, establishing a committee to educate the Secretary on the obstacles insular area veterans face, is so important.

Each U.S. insular area and each of the freely associated States would have a seat on the advisory committee. Each would be able to describe the barriers their veterans face in receiving VA services.

Establishing an advisory committee will not solve every logistical problem for veterans who live in geographically remote areas of America, but at least those veterans on the margins will have a way to communicate directly with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. And when the Secretary hears about the barriers to service these insular veterans face, maybe, just maybe, change will occur.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Minority Veterans of America, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, and the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America for their support of this bipartisan bill, H.R. 3730.

I also thank Chairman TAKANO, Ranking Member BOST, Congresswoman RADEWAGEN, and my fellow members of the Committee on Veterans Affairs for their unanimous support to report my bill favorably to the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 3730 to give marginalized veterans in the insular areas a voice in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 3730, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3730, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

HOMELAND PROCUREMENT REFORM ACT

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2915) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 regarding the procurement of certain items related to national security interests for Department of Homeland Security frontline operational components, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2915

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Homeland Procurement Reform Act" or the "HOPR Act".

SEC. 2. REQUIREMENTS TO BUY CERTAIN ITEMS RELATED TO NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS ACCORDING TO CERTAIN CRITERIA.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Subtitle D of title VIII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 391 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 836. REQUIREMENTS TO BUY CERTAIN ITEMS RELATED TO NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS.

"(a) *DEFINITIONS.*—In this section:

"(1) *COVERED ITEM.*—The term 'covered item' means any of the following:

"(A) Footwear provided as part of a uniform.

"(B) Uniforms.

"(C) Holsters and tactical pouches.

"(D) Patches, insignia, and embellishments.

"(E) Chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear protective gear.

"(F) Body armor components intended to provide ballistic protection for an individual, consisting of 1 or more of the following:

"(i) Soft ballistic panels.

"(ii) Hard ballistic plates.

"(iii) Concealed armor carriers worn under a uniform.

"(iv) External armor carriers worn over a uniform.

"(G) Any other item of clothing or protective equipment as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

“(2) **FRONTLINE OPERATIONAL COMPONENT.**—The term ‘frontline operational component’ means any of the following organizations of the Department:

- “(A) U.S. Customs and Border Protection.
- “(B) U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.
- “(C) The United States Secret Service.
- “(D) The Transportation Security Administration.
- “(E) The Coast Guard.
- “(F) The Federal Protective Service.
- “(G) The Federal Emergency Management Agency.
- “(H) The Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers.
- “(I) The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.

“(b) **REQUIREMENTS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall ensure that any procurement of a covered item for a frontline operational component meets the following criteria:

“(A) To the maximum extent possible, not less than one-third of funds obligated in a specific fiscal year for the procurement of such covered items shall be covered items that are manufactured or supplied in the United States by entities that qualify as small business concerns, as such term is described under section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

“(B) Each contractor with respect to the procurement of such a covered item, including the end-item manufacturer of such a covered item—

“(i) is an entity registered with the System for Award Management (or successor system) administered by the General Services Administration; and

“(ii) is in compliance with ISO 9001:2015 of the International Organization for Standardization (or successor standard) or a standard determined appropriate by the Secretary to ensure the quality of products and adherence to applicable statutory and regulatory requirements.

“(C) Each supplier of such a covered item with an insignia (such as any patch, badge, or emblem) and each supplier of such an insignia, if such covered item with such insignia or such insignia, as the case may be, is not produced, applied, or assembled in the United States, shall—

“(i) store such covered item with such insignia or such insignia in a locked area;

“(ii) report any pilferage or theft of such covered item with such insignia or such insignia occurring at any stage before delivery of such covered item with such insignia or such insignia; and

“(iii) destroy any such defective or unusable covered item with insignia or insignia in a manner established by the Secretary, and maintain records, for three years after the creation of such records, of such destruction that include the date of such destruction, a description of the covered item with insignia or insignia destroyed, the quantity of the covered item with insignia or insignia destroyed, and the method of destruction.

“(2) **WAIVER.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—In the case of a national emergency declared by the President under the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) or a major disaster declared by the President under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170), the Secretary may waive a requirement in subparagraph (A), (B) or (C) of paragraph (1) if the Secretary determines there is an insufficient supply of a covered item that meets the requirement.

“(B) **NOTICE.**—Not later than 60 days after the date on which the Secretary determines a waiver under subparagraph (A) is necessary, the Secretary shall provide to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on Oversight and Reform,

and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives notice of such determination, which shall include—

“(i) identification of the national emergency or major disaster declared by the President;

“(ii) identification of the covered item for which the Secretary intends to issue the waiver; and

“(iii) a description of the demand for the covered item and corresponding lack of supply from contractors able to meet the criteria described in subparagraph (B) or (C) of paragraph (1).

“(c) **PRICING.**—The Secretary shall ensure that covered items are purchased at a fair and reasonable price, consistent with the procedures and guidelines specified in the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

“(d) **REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall provide to the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate a briefing on instances in which vendors have failed to meet deadlines for delivery of covered items and corrective actions taken by the Department in response to such instances.

“(e) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—This section applies with respect to a contract entered into by the Department or any frontline operational component on or after the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of this section.”.

(b) **STUDY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives a study of the adequacy of uniform allowances provided to employees of frontline operational components (as defined in section 836 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by subsection (a)).

(2) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The study conducted under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) be informed by a Department-wide survey of employees from across the Department of Homeland Security who receive uniform allowances that seeks to ascertain what, if any, improvements could be made to the current uniform allowances and what, if any, impacts current allowances have had on employee morale and retention;

(B) assess the adequacy of the most recent increase made to the uniform allowance for first year employees; and

(C) consider increasing by 50 percent, at minimum, the annual allowance for all other employees.

(c) **ADDITIONAL REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide a report with recommendations on how the Department of Homeland Security could procure additional items from domestic sources and bolster the domestic supply chain for items related to national security to—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) **CONTENTS.**—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A review of the compliance of the Department of Homeland Security with the requirements under section 604 of title VI of division A of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (6 U.S.C. 453b) to buy certain items related to national security interests from sources in the United States.

(B) An assessment of the capacity of the Department of Homeland Security to procure the following items from domestic sources:

(i) Personal protective equipment and other items necessary to respond to a pandemic such as that caused by COVID-19.

(ii) Helmets that provide ballistic protection and other head protection and components.

(iii) Rain gear, cold weather gear, and other environmental and flame resistant clothing.

(d) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-296; 116 Stat. 2135) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 835 the following:

“Sec. 836. Requirements to buy certain items related to national security interests.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. VAN DREW) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2915, the Homeland Procurement Reform Act, or better known as HOPR Act. I am proud to have introduced this bipartisan legislation to reform the way the Department of Homeland Security purchases uniforms and protective equipment for its personnel.

My bill seeks to improve the quality of uniforms and equipment issued to frontline DHS personnel by requiring, to the maximum extent possible, that at least one-third of the funds be used to purchase goods manufactured by American small businesses in America.

Today, DHS has more than 60,000 men and women in uniform, but fewer than half of those uniforms are actually manufactured in the United States.

Furthermore, in response to the concerns expressed by frontline personnel about how quickly they exhaust their annual uniform allowances, this bill directs DHS to study the adequacy of uniform allowances for those serving on the front lines.

My bill also strengthens supply chain security for uniforms by mandating locked storage, reports of stolen goods, and the destruction of defective items for any item bearing official DHS insignia not manufactured in the United States.

In response to supply chain shortages that we have been seeing recently during this pandemic, my bill also requires the Department to assess how to get more items related to national security from domestic sources.

This provision is targeted at such items as personal protective equipment, or PPE, which we all know has

been quite scarce at points during this pandemic. Simply put, this bill is good for Homeland Security, good for Americans, and good for American businesses.

H.R. 2915 is endorsed by the Warrior Protection and Readiness Coalition and passed out of the committee unanimously.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Homeland Procurement Reform Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in favor of the HOPR Act, H.R. 2915.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague, Mr. CORREA, for his continued leadership on this issue to help bolster our domestic supply chains.

This bill requires that, to the maximum extent possible, at least one-third of the funds obligated for the procurement of the Department of Homeland Security uniforms and gear covered by the HOPR Act be used to purchase goods manufactured by entities that qualify as United States small businesses.

Additionally, this bill directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct a study of the adequacy of uniform allowances provided to Department frontline personnel to determine what improvements can be made to current uniform allowances, including increasing allowances.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to join me in supporting H.R. 2915, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, if enacted, H.R. 2915 will simultaneously serve the frontline personnel who protect our homeland and support the domestic industrial base, especially small businesses.

Most importantly, as noted in the committee report, it is our expectation that, once this measure is enacted into law, DHS implement it in a manner that supports small business domestic manufacturing.

To that end, DHS is expected to prioritize buying from small businesses that manufacture the item here in the United States over purchasing foreign-manufactured goods supplied by a small business.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the bipartisan work that went into creating this legislation that is cosponsored by my Republican colleague, Mr. BRIAN MAST of Florida. I also appreciate the efforts of Senator SHAHEEN of New Hampshire, who introduced the Senate companion of this bill, which the Senate Committee on Homeland Security ordered to be favorably reported this year.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the HOPR Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2915, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1345

DHS ACQUISITION REVIEW BOARD ACT OF 2021

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5652) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish the Acquisition Review Board in the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5652

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “DHS Acquisition Review Board Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. ACQUISITION REVIEW BOARD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle D of title VIII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 391 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 836. ACQUISITION REVIEW BOARD.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the Department an Acquisition Review Board (in this section referred to as the ‘Board’) to support the Under Secretary for Management in managing the Department’s acquisitions.

“(b) COMPOSITION.—

“(1) CHAIR.—The Under Secretary for Management shall serve as chair of the Board.

“(2) OVERSIGHT.—The Under Secretary for Management may designate an employee of the Department to oversee the operations of the Board.

“(3) PARTICIPATION.—The Under Secretary for Management shall ensure participation by other relevant Department officials with responsibilities related to acquisitions as permanent members of the Board, including the following:

“(A) The Chair of the Joint Requirements Council.

“(B) The Chief Financial Officer.

“(C) The Chief Human Capital Officer.

“(D) The Chief Information Officer.

“(E) The Chief Procurement Officer.

“(F) The Chief Readiness Support Officer.

“(G) The Chief Security Officer.

“(H) The Director of the Office of Test and Evaluation.

“(I) Other relevant senior Department officials, as designated by the Under Secretary for Management.

“(c) MEETINGS.—The Board shall meet regularly for purposes of evaluating the progress and status of an acquisition program. The Board shall convene at the Under Secretary for Management’s discretion, and at such time as—

“(1) a new acquisition program is initiated;

“(2) a major acquisition program—

“(A) requires authorization to proceed from one acquisition decision event to another throughout the acquisition life-cycle;

“(B) is in breach of its approved acquisition program baseline; or

“(C) requires additional review, as determined by the Under Secretary for Management; or

“(3) a non-major acquisition program requires review, as determined by the Under Secretary for Management.

“(d) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The responsibilities of the Board are as follows:

“(1) Determine the appropriate acquisition level and acquisition decision authority for new acquisition programs based on the estimated eventual total expenditure of each such program to satisfy the mission need of the Department over the life-cycle of such acquisition regardless of funding source.

“(2) Determine whether a proposed acquisition has met the requirements of key phases of the acquisition life-cycle framework and is able to proceed to the next phase and eventual full production and deployment.

“(3) Oversee whether a proposed acquisition’s business strategy, resources, management, and accountability is executable and is aligned with the mission and strategic goals of the Department.

“(4) Support the person with acquisition decision authority for an acquisition in determining the appropriate direction for such acquisition at key acquisition decision events.

“(5) Conduct systematic reviews of acquisitions to ensure that such acquisitions are progressing in accordance with best practices and in compliance with the most recently approved documents for such acquisitions’ current acquisition phases.

“(6) Review the acquisition documents of each major acquisition program, including the acquisition program baseline and documentation reflecting consideration of trade-offs among cost, schedule, and performance objectives, to ensure the reliability of underlying data.

“(7) Ensure that practices are adopted and implemented to require consideration of trade-offs among cost, schedule, and performance objectives as part of the process for developing requirements for major acquisition programs prior to the initiation of the second acquisition decision event, including, at a minimum, the following practices:

“(A) Department officials responsible for acquisition, budget, and cost estimating functions are provided with the appropriate opportunity to develop estimates and raise cost and schedule concerns before performance objectives are established for capabilities when feasible.

“(B) Full consideration is given to possible trade-offs among cost, schedule, and performance objectives for each alternative.

“(e) DOCUMENTATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The chair of the Board shall ensure that all actions and decisions made pursuant to the responsibilities of the Board under subsection (d) are documented in an acquisition decision memorandum that includes—

“(A) a summary of the action at issue or purpose for convening a meeting under subsection (c);

“(B) the decision with respect to actions discussed during such meeting;

“(C) the rationale for such a decision, including justifications for any such decision made to allow acquisition programs to deviate from the acquisition management policy of the Department;

“(D) any assigned items for further action; and

“(E) the signature of the chair verifying the contents of such memorandum.

“(2) SUBMISSION OF MEMORANDUM.—Not later than seven days after the date on which the acquisition decision memorandum is signed by the chair pursuant to paragraph (1)(E), the chair shall submit to the Secretary, the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a copy of such memorandum.

“(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) ACQUISITION.—The term ‘acquisition’ has the meaning given such term in section 131 of title 41, United States Code.

“(2) ACQUISITION DECISION AUTHORITY.—The term ‘acquisition decision authority’ means the authority, held by the Secretary to—

“(A) ensure acquisition programs are in compliance with Federal law, the Federal Acquisition Regulation, and Department acquisition management directives;

“(B) review (including approving, pausing, modifying, or cancelling) an acquisition program through the life-cycle of such program;

“(C) ensure that acquisition program managers have the resources necessary to successfully execute an approved acquisition program;

“(D) ensure appropriate acquisition program management of cost, schedule, risk, and system performance of the acquisition program at issue, including assessing acquisition program baseline breaches and directing any corrective action for such breaches; and

“(E) ensure that acquisition program managers, on an ongoing basis, monitor cost, schedule, and performance against established baselines and use tools to assess risks to an acquisition program at all phases of the life-cycle of such program to avoid and mitigate acquisition program baseline breaches.

“(3) ACQUISITION DECISION EVENT.—The term ‘acquisition decision event’, with respect to an acquisition program, means a predetermined point within each of the acquisition phases at which the acquisition decision authority determines whether such acquisition program shall proceed to the next acquisition phase.

“(4) ACQUISITION DECISION MEMORANDUM.—The term ‘acquisition decision memorandum’ means the official documented record of decisions, including the rationale for such decisions and any assigned actions, for the acquisition at issue, as determined by the person exercising acquisition decision authority for such acquisition.

“(5) ACQUISITION PROGRAM BASELINE.—The term ‘acquisition program baseline’, with respect to an acquisition program, means a summary of the cost, schedule, and performance parameters, expressed in standard, measurable, quantitative terms, which must be satisfied to accomplish the goals of such program.

“(6) BEST PRACTICES.—The term ‘best practices’, with respect to acquisition, means a knowledge-based approach to capability development that includes—

“(A) identifying and validating needs;

“(B) assessing alternatives to select the most appropriate solution;

“(C) clearly establishing well-defined requirements;

“(D) developing realistic cost estimates and schedules that account for the entire life-cycle of such an acquisition;

“(E) securing stable funding that matches resources to requirements before initiating such development;

“(F) demonstrating technology, design, and manufacturing maturity before initiating production of the item that is the subject of such acquisition;

“(G) using milestones and exit criteria or specific accomplishments that demonstrate the attainment of knowledge to support progress;

“(H) regularly assessing and managing risks to achieving requirements and cost and schedule goals;

“(I) adopting and executing standardized processes with known success across programs;

“(J) establishing an adequate workforce that is qualified and sufficient to perform necessary functions; and

“(K) integrating the capabilities described in subparagraphs (A) through (J).

“(7) MAJOR ACQUISITION PROGRAM.—The term ‘major acquisition program’ means—

“(A) a Department capital asset, service, or hybrid acquisition program that is estimated by the Secretary to require an eventual total expenditure of at least \$300 million (based on fiscal year 2022 constant dollars) over its life-cycle cost; or

“(B) a program identified by the Under Secretary for Management as a program of special interest.

“(8) NON-MAJOR ACQUISITION PROGRAM.—The term ‘non-major acquisition program’ means a Department capital asset, service, or hybrid acquisition program that is estimated by the Secretary to require an eventual total expenditure of less than \$300,000,000 (based on fiscal year 2022 constant dollars) over its life-cycle.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 835 the following new item:

“Sec. 836. Acquisition Review Board.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. VAN DREW) each will control 20 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, each year, the Department of Homeland Security spends billions of dollars on its major acquisition programs to execute its most critical missions. It acquires systems vital to homeland security, including those used to screen travelers, enhance cybersecurity, and improve disaster response.

However, over the past decade, the Government Accountability Office, or GAO, has repeatedly raised alarms regarding DHS’ management of its acquisition programs.

Earlier this year, the GAO reviewed 24 major acquisition programs that DHS is pursuing. Ten had been in breach of their cost or schedule goals, or both, at some point during fiscal year 2020.

Given the complexity of DHS’ acquisition programs, it is critical that there be a standing oversight body to give major acquisition programs the attention they deserve. At DHS, the Acquisition Review Board is just that body.

H.R. 5652, the DHS Acquisition Review Board Act of 2021, seeks to strengthen the role of the Acquisition Review Board, or ARB, to improve acquisition outcomes at DHS.

The ARB is charged with reviewing major acquisition programs for proper management, oversight, accountability, and alignment with DHS’ strategic functions.

The ARB can intercede when it identifies a program with significant cost, schedule, or performance issues and drive a course correction or even terminate such a program.

Passage of H.R. 5652 will help stabilize oversight within DHS when it comes to major acquisitions, which, according to GAO, is a high-risk activity, by codifying the Board into law.

Most importantly, the bill also authorizes the Board to not only review major acquisitions but also to review certain acquisitions that are valued below \$300 million but are critical to the Department’s success.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the DHS Acquisition Review Board Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 5652, the DHS Acquisition Review Board Act of 2021.

The Department of Homeland Security invests billions of dollars each year in its major acquisitions. These programs include buying IT systems to help secure our border, Coast Guard cutters to increase marine safety, and tools to help TSA screen travelers more efficiently. These acquisitions, and others, enable the Department to execute its many critical missions.

In fiscal year 2021 alone, DHS planned to spend more than \$7 billion on its major acquisition programs, and ultimately, the Department plans to spend more than \$200 billion over the programs’ entire life cycles.

However, the Government Accountability Office, GAO, and the DHS Office of the Inspector General, OIG, have reported on the longstanding challenges DHS faces in managing its major acquisition programs, which began with the inception of the Department and continue to this day.

For example, in January 2021, GAO reported that of the 24 major acquisition programs it audited, 10 had been in breach of their cost or scheduled goals, or both, at some point during fiscal year 2020.

Also, in 2018, the OIG reported that DHS components have an ongoing tendency to acquire systems before they adequately define their requirements or develop performance measures. We cannot allow this to continue.

Given these challenges and the significant level of DHS investment in these programs, it is important for Congress to ensure that the proper oversight structures are in place. That is exactly what this bill intends to do.

This bill amends the Homeland Security Act to include the DHS Acquisition Review Board, which has already been formed by the Department.

The bill outlines specific responsibilities and parameters for the Board, which it exercises today, including its membership and how often the Board should meet, such as at certain key points in the programs’ life cycles.

The Board is held at the Department level and is chaired by the acquisition

decision authority—normally, the Under Secretary for Management or a designee—and consists of individuals who manage DHS' mission objectives, resources, and contracts.

The Board's primary oversight role is to review major acquisition programs for proper management, oversight, accountability, and alignment with the Department's strategic functions.

The Board keeps acquisition programs accountable to the Department, Congress, and the American taxpayer, most importantly, by doing the following.

First, it ensures that the Department considers tradeoffs between cost, schedule, and performance before approving a program to proceed to the next phase of acquisition.

Second, it determines whether programs are using acquisition best practices.

Third, it requires senior DHS leaders to review the programs' progress and see that the program requirements are being met as they should.

This bill also requires the Board to document the actions and the decisions that it makes, including rationale for its decisions, which are then submitted to the Committee on Homeland Security in the House and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs in the Senate.

In conclusion, this bill simply proposes to codify better oversight, management, and accountability of the Department's acquisitions.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Congresswoman DEMINGS, for reaching across the aisle and cosponsoring this commonsense bill with me. I also thank Ranking Member KATKO and Representatives GARBARINO, HIGGINS, and MILLER-MEEKS for cosponsoring this bill as well.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5652, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5652 strengthens the Acquisition Review Board, one very important mechanism within DHS that can help ensure that acquisition programs are delivered on time and on budget, and in-line with DHS missions.

A version of this bill passed the House in both the 115th and 116th Congresses, and I thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. VAN DREW) for sponsoring the legislation in this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the DHS Acquisition Review Board Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5652.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TSA REACHING ACROSS NATIONALITIES, SOCIETIES, AND LANGUAGES TO ADVANCE TRAVELER EDUCATION ACT

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5574) to require the TSA to develop a plan to ensure that TSA material disseminated in major airports can be better understood by more people accessing such airports, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5574

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "TSA Reaching Across Nationalities, Societies, and Languages to Advance Traveler Education Act" or the "TRANSLATE Act".

SEC. 2. PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a plan to ensure that TSA material disseminated in major airports can be better understood by more people accessing such airports.

(b) CONTENTS.—The plan required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An identification of the most common languages other than English that are the primary languages of individuals that travel through or work in each major airport.

(2) A plan to improve—

(A) TSA materials to communicate information in languages identified pursuant to paragraph (1); and

(B) the communication of TSA material to individuals with vision or hearing impairments or other possible barriers to understanding such material.

(c) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing the plan required under subsection (a), the Administrator of the TSA, acting through the Office of Civil Rights and Liberties, Ombudsman, and Traveler Engagement of the TSA, shall take into consideration data regarding the following:

(1) International enplanement.

(2) Local populations surrounding major airports.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 180 days after the submission of the plan required under subsection (a), the Administrator of the TSA shall implement such plan.

(e) GAO REVIEW.—Not later than one year after the implementation pursuant to subsection (d) of the plan required under subsection (a), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a review of such implementation.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AIRPORT.—The term "airport" has the meaning given such term in section 40102 of title 49, United States Code.

(2) MAJOR AIRPORTS.—The term "major airports" means Category X and Category I airports.

(3) NON-TRAVELING INDIVIDUAL.—The term "non-traveling individual" has the meaning given such term in section 1560.3 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations.

(4) TSA MATERIAL.—The term "TSA material" means signs, videos, audio messages,

websites, press releases, social media postings, and other communications published and disseminated by the Administrator of the TSA in Category X and Category I airports for use by both traveling and non-traveling individuals.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. VAN DREW) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Nevada.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Nevada?

There was no objection.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 5574, known as the TRANSLATE Act.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Congressman VAN TAYLOR of Texas, for once again joining me in introducing this legislation, which will ease TSA's security processing at our Nation's major airports.

The TRANSLATE Act is bipartisan legislation building upon the Transportation Security Administration's ongoing efforts to increase access for non-English speakers, and for those with vision and hearing impairments, as they navigate the security screening process.

It does this by directing TSA to analyze common languages other than English that are spoken by both our international travelers as well as those who reside in the nearby community and then develop and execute a plan to disseminate security information in those languages to ease the screening process.

I represent the heart of Las Vegas Valley, including McCarran International Airport, which is one of the Nation's busiest airports, welcoming passengers from around the country and around the world who come to enjoy all that southern Nevada has to offer.

Navigating our air system can be stressful enough—if you travel back and forth, you know what I mean—for even the most well-seasoned traveler. Removing potential language barriers to ease TSA processing is not only beneficial for those travelers but also for the general public rushing to catch their flights.

Southern Nevada's community is rich in diversity. One of every three Clark County residents speaks a language other than English at home. Nationwide, that number is just over one out of every five residents. Yet, much of what TSA communicates to travelers and transportation workers through signs, announcements, videos, and online content is in English.

Let's be clear. You shouldn't have to worry about missing a plane at an airport in the U.S. just because you don't speak English. Making travel and security information easier to understand for non-English speakers and for those with vision and hearing impairments will help create a more comfortable and efficient airport experience for residents and visitors alike.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues on the Committee on Homeland Security for their unanimous support of this legislation last month and the chairman for his assistance in getting this passed.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support the passage of the TRANSLATE Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today for H.R. 5574, the TRANSLATE Act.

According to the United States Census Bureau, approximately 67 million U.S. residents speak a language other than English at home. This legislation requires TSA to ensure that its communications materials in airports are in the primary languages of individuals who travel through and work in our country's airports.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1400

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation's airports connect Americans to one another and to the rest of the world. But for travelers who do not primarily speak English or who experience hearing or vision difficulties, the TSA screening process can be challenging and result in delays for all the other travelers who are standing in line.

By requiring TSA to make its signage and announcement more accessible to passengers at major airports, my bill will bring much-needed inclusivity and efficiency to the whole travel experience. I know we all appreciate seeing signs in English when we are traveling abroad. U.S. airports should be just as welcoming and reflect the diversity of our constituents and the travelers who visit our cities.

So, once again, Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to vote for H.R. 5574, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOWMAN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5574, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1445

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOWMAN) at 2 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.

PROTECTING MOMS WHO SERVED ACT OF 2021

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 796) to codify maternity care coordination programs at the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 414, nays 9, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 374]

YEAS—414

Adams	Buchanan	Connolly	Estes	Kustoff	Reschenthaler
Aderholt	Buck	Cooper	Evans	LaHood	Rice (NY)
Aguilar	Bucshon	Correa	Fallon	LaMalfa	Rice (SC)
Allen	Budd	Costa	Feenstra	Lamb	Rodgers (WA)
Allred	Burchett	Courtney	Ferguson	Lamborn	Rogers (AL)
Amodei	Burgess	Craig	Fischbach	Langevin	Rogers (KY)
Armstrong	Bush	Crawford	Fitzgerald	Larsen (WA)	Rose
Arrington	Bustos	Crenshaw	Fitzpatrick	Larsen (CT)	Ross
Auchincloss	Butterfield	Crist	Fleischmann	Latta	Rouzer
Axne	Calvert	Crow	Fletcher	LaTurner	Roybal-Allard
Babin	Cammack	Cuellar	Fortenberry	Lawrence	Ruiz
Bacon	Carbajal	Curtis	Foster	Lawson (FL)	Ruppersberger
Baird	Cárdenas	Davidson	Fox	Lee (CA)	Rush
Balderson	Carey	Davis, Danny K.	Frankel, Lois	Lee (NV)	Rutherford
Banks	Carl	Davis, Rodney	Franklin, C.	Leger Fernandez	Ryan
Barr	Carson	Dean	Scott	Lesko	Salazar
Barragán	Carter (GA)	DeFazio	Fulcher	Letlow	Sánchez
Bass	Carter (LA)	DeGette	Gaetz	Levin (CA)	Sarbanes
Beatty	Carter (TX)	DeLauro	Gallagher	Levin (MI)	Scallie
Bentz	Cartwright	DelBene	Galleo	Lieu	Scanlon
Bera	Case	Delgado	Garamendi	Lofgren	Schakowsky
Bergman	Casten	Demings	Garbarino	Long	Schiff
Beyer	Castor (FL)	DeSaulnier	Garcia (CA)	Lowenthal	Schneider
Bice (OK)	Castro (TX)	DesJarlais	Garcia (IL)	Lucas	Schrader
Bilirakis	Cawthorn	Deutch	Garcia (TX)	Luetkemeyer	Schrier
Bishop (GA)	Chabot	Dingell	Gibbs	Luria	Schweikert
Blumenauer	Cheney	Doggett	Gimenez	Lynch	Scott (VA)
Blunt Rochester	Chu	Donalds	Golden	Mace	Scott, Austin
Bonamici	Ciulline	Doyle, Michael	Gomez	Malinowski	Scott, David
Bourdeaux	Clark (MA)	F.	Gonzales, Tony	Malliotakis	Sessions
Bowman	Clarke (NY)	Duncan	Gonzalez (OH)	Maloney,	Sewell
Boyle, Brendan	Cleaver	Dunn	Gonzalez,	Carolyn B.	Sherman
F.	Cline	Ellzey	Vicente	Maloney, Sean	Sherrill
Brady	Cloud	Emmer	Gooden (TX)	Mann	Simpson
Brooks	Clayburn	Escobar	Gosar	Manning	Sires
Brown (MD)	Clyde	Eshoo	Gottheimer	Massie	Slotkin
Brown (OH)	Cohen	Espallat	Granger	Mast	Smith (MO)
Brownley	Cole		Graves (LA)	Matsui	Smith (NE)
	Comer		Graves (MO)	McBath	Smith (NJ)
			Green (TN)	McCarthy	Smith (WA)
			Green, Al (TX)	McCaul	Smucker
			Griffith	McClain	Soto
			Grijalva	McCollum	Spanberger
			Grothman	McEachin	Spartz
			Guest	McGovern	Speier
			Guthrie	McHenry	Stansbury
			Hagedorn	McKinley	Stanton
			Harder (CA)	McNerney	Stauber
			Harris	Meeks	Steel
			Harsbarger	Meijer	Stefanik
			Hartzler	Meng	Steil
			Hayes	Meuser	Steube
			Hern	Mfume	Stevens
			Herrell	Miller (IL)	Stewart
			Higgins (LA)	Miller (WV)	Strickland
			Higgins (NY)	Miller-Meeks	Suozzi
			Hill	Moolenaar	Swalwell
			Himes	Mooney	Takano
			Hinson	Moore (AL)	Taylor
			Hollingsworth	Moore (UT)	Tenney
			Horsford	Moore (WI)	Thompson (CA)
			Houlahan	Morelle	Thompson (MS)
			Hoyer	Moulton	Thompson (PA)
			Hudson	Mryan	Tiffany
			Huffman	Mullin	Timmons
			Huizenga	Murphy (FL)	Titus
			Issa	Murphy (NC)	Tlaib
			Jackson	Nadler	Tonko
			Jackson Lee	Napolitano	Torres (CA)
			Jacobs (CA)	Neguse	Torres (NY)
			Jacobs (NY)	Nehls	Trahan
			Jayapal	Newhouse	Trone
			Jeffries	Newman	Turner
			Johnson (GA)	Norcross	Underwood
			Johnson (LA)	Nunes	Upton
			Johnson (OH)	O'Halleran	Valadao
			Johnson (SD)	Oberholte	Van Drew
			Johnson (TX)	Ocasio-Cortez	Van Duyne
			Jones	Omar	Vargas
			Jordan	Owens	Veasey
			Joyce (OH)	Palazzo	Velázquez
			Joyce (PA)	Pallone	Wagner
			Kahele	Palmer	Walberg
			Kaptur	Panetta	Walorski
			Katko	Pascrell	Waltz
			Keating	Payne	Wasserman
			Keller	Pence	Schultz
			Kelly (IL)	Perlmutter	Waters
			Kelly (MS)	Peters	Watson Coleman
			Kelly (PA)	Pfenger	Weber (TX)
			Khanna	Pingree	Webster (FL)
			Kildee	Pocan	Welch
			Kilmer	Porter	Wenstrup
			Kim (CA)	Posey	Westerman
			Kim (NJ)	Pressley	Wexton
			Kind	Price (NC)	Wild
			Kinzinger	Quigley	Williams (GA)
			Kirkpatrick	Raskin	Williams (TX)
			Krishnamoorthi	Reed	Wilson (FL)

Wilson (SC)	Womack	Young
Wittman	Yarmuth	Zeldin

NAYS—9

Biggs	Greene (GA)	Norman
Boebert	Hice (GA)	Rosendale
Good (VA)	McClintock	Roy

NOT VOTING—10

Bishop (NC)	Loudermilk	Phillips
Gohmert	Neal	Vela
Herrera Beutler	Pappas	
Kuster	Perry	

□ 1524

Mr. BIGGS changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Auchincloss (Clark (MA))	Lawson (FL) (Evans)	Pressley (Bowman)
Blumenauer (Beyer)	Lesko (Joyce (PA))	Rice (NY) (Murphy (FL))
Carter (LA) (Kahele)	Lowenthal (Beyer)	Roybal-Allard (McCollum)
DeFazio (Brown (MD))	Matsui (Thompson (CA))	Ruiz (Aguilar) Rush (Quigley)
Garcia (IL) (Ocasio-Cortez)	McEachin (Wexton)	Swalwell (Gomez)
Grijalva (Stanton)	Pascarell (Casten)	Underwood (Hayes)
Horsford (Allred)	(Pallone)	Wilson (FL)
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)	Payne (Pallone) Porter (Wexton)	Yarmuth (Beyer)

STUDENT VETERANS COUNSELING CENTERS ELIGIBILITY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BERA). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4233) to amend title 38, United States Code, to furnish Vet Center readjustment counseling and related mental health services to veterans and members of the Armed Forces using certain educational assistance benefits, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 420, nays 4, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 375]

YEAS—420

Adams	Bentz	Brady
Aderholt	Bera	Brooks
Aguilar	Bergman	Brown (MD)
Allred	Beyer	Brown (OH)
Amodei	Bice (OK)	Brownley
Armstrong	Biggs	Buchanan
Arrington	Bilirakis	Buck
Auchincloss	Bishop (GA)	Bucshon
Axne	Bishop (NC)	Budd
Babin	Blumenauer	Burchett
Bacon	Blunt Rochester	Burgess
Baird	Boebert	Bush
Balderson	Bonamici	Bustos
Banks	Bost	Butterfield
Barr	Bourdeaux	Calvert
Barragán	Bowman	Cammack
Bass	Boyle, Brendan	Carbajal
Beatty	F.	Cárdenas

Carey	Carl	Carson
Carter (GA)	Carter (LA)	Carter (TX)
Carter (TX)	Cartwright	Case
Castor (FL)	Castro (TX)	Cawthorn
Chabot	Cheney	Chu
Cicilline	Clark (MA)	Clarke (NY)
Cleaver	Cline	Cloud
Clyburn	Clyde	Cohen
Cole	Comer	Connolly
Cooper	Correa	Costa
Courtney	Craig	Crawford
Crenshaw	Crist	Crow
Cuellar	Curtis	Davids (KS)
Davidson	Davis, Danny K.	Davis, Rodney
Dean	DeFazio	DeGette
DeLauro	DelBene	Delgado
Demings	DeSaulnier	DesJarlais
Deutch	Diaz-Balart	Dingell
Doggett	Donalds	Doyle, Michael
Duncan	Dunn	Elizy
Emmer	Eshoo	Espallat
Estes	Evans	Fallon
Feenstra	Ferguson	Fischbach
Fitzgerald	Fitzpatrick	Fleischmann
Fletcher	Fortenberry	Foster
Fox	Frankel, Lois	Franklin, C.
Fulcher	Gaetz	Gallagher
Gallo	Garamendi	Garcia (CA)
Gibbs	Gimenez	Gohmert
Golden	Gomez	Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)	Gonzalez,	Vicente
Good (VA)	Gooden (TX)	Gosar
Gottheimer	Granger	Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)	Green (TN)	Green, Al (TX)
Greene (GA)	Griffith	Grijalva
Grothman	Guest	Guthrie
Hagedorn	Harder (CA)	Harris
Harshbarger	Hartzler	Hayes
Hern	Herrrell	Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)	Higgins (LA)	Higgins (NY)
Hill	Himes	Hinson
Hollingsworth	Horsford	Houlahan
Hoyer	Hudson	Huffman
Huizenga	Issa	Jackson
Jackson Lee	Jacobs (CA)	Jacobs (NY)
Jayapal	Jeffries	Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)	Johnson (OH)	Johnson (SD)
Johnson (TX)	Jones	Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)	Kahele	Kaptur
Katko	Keating	Keller
Kelly (IL)	Kelly (MS)	Kelly (PA)
Khanna	Kildee	Kilmer
Kim (CA)	Kim (NJ)	Kind
Kinzie	Kirkpatrick	Krishnamoorthi
Kustoff	LaHood	LaMalfa
Lamb	Lamborn	Langevin
Larsen (WA)	Larson (CT)	Latta
Lawrence	Lawson (FL)	Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)	Leger Fernandez	Lesko
Letlow	Levin (CA)	Levin (MI)
Lieu	Lofgren	Long
Lowenthal	Lucas	Luetkemeyer
Luria	Lynch	Mace
Malinowski	Malliotakis	Maloney, Sean
Malone, B.	Maloney, Sean	Mann

Manning	Massie	Massie
McBath	McCarthy	McCauley
McClain	McClintock	McCollum
McEachin	McGovern	McHenry
McKinley	McKinney	Meeks
Meijer	Meng	Meuser
Mfume	Miller (IL)	Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks	Moolenaar	Mooney
Moore (AL)	Moore (UT)	Moore (WI)
Morelle	Moulton	Mrvan
Mullin	Murphy (FL)	Murphy (NC)
Nadler	Napolitano	Neguse
Nehls	Newhouse	Newman
Norcross	Norman	Nunes
O'Halleran	Ocasio-Cortez	Omar
Owens	Palazzo	Pallone
Palm	Panetta	Pascarell
Pence	Perrin	Peters
Pfizer	Phillips	Pingree
Pocan	Porter	Posey
Pressley	Price (NC)	Quigley
Raskin	Reed	Reschenthaler
Rice (NY)	Rice (SC)	Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)	Rogers (KY)	Rose
Rosendale	Ross	Roy
Roybal-Allard	Ruiz	Ruppersberger
Rush	Rutherford	Ryan
Salazar	Sánchez	Sarbanes
Scalise	Scanlon	Schakowsky
Schiff	Schneider	Schrader
Schrier	Schweikert	Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin	Scott, David	Sessions

NAYS—4

Casten	Garcia (IL)
Escobar	Garcia (TX)

NOT VOTING—9

Allen	Loudermilk	Perry
Jordan	Neal	Rouzer
Kuster	Pappas	Vela

□ 1541

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 375.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Auchincloss (Clark (MA))	Lawson (FL) (Evans)	Pressley (Bowman)
Blumenauer (Beyer)	Lesko (Joyce (PA))	Rice (NY) (Murphy (FL))
Carter (LA) (Kahele)	Lowenthal (Beyer)	Roybal-Allard (McCollum)
DeFazio (Brown (MD))	Matsui (Thompson (CA))	Ruiz (Aguilar) Rush (Quigley)
Garcia (IL) (Ocasio-Cortez)	McEachin (Wexton)	Swalwell (Gomez)
Grijalva (Stanton)	Pascarell (Casten)	Underwood (Hayes)
Herrera Beutler (Rodgers (WA))	Payne (Pallone)	Wilson (FL)
Horsford (Allred)	Phillips (Jacobs (CA))	Yarmuth (Beyer)
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)	Porter (Wexton)	

BRINGING REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIPS TO VETERANS EDUCATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 147) to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements to transitional services for separating members of the Armed Forces and educational assistance under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 427, nays 0, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 376]

YEAS—427

Adams	Davidson	Horsford
Aderholt	Davidson	Houlahan
Aguilar	Davis, Danny K.	Hoyer
Allen	Davis, Rodney	Hudson
Allred	Dean	Huffman
Amodei	DeFazio	Huizenga
Armstrong	DeGette	Issa
Arrington	DeLauro	Jackson
Auchincloss	DelBene	Jackson Lee
Axne	Delgado	Jacobs (CA)
Babin	Demings	Jacobs (NY)
Bacon	DeSaulnier	Jayapal
Baird	DesJarlais	Jeffries
Balderson	Deutch	Johnson (GA)
Banks	Diaz-Balart	Johnson (LA)
Barr	Dingell	Johnson (OH)
Barragán	Doggett	Johnson (SD)
Bass	Donalds	Johnson (TX)
Beatty	Doyle, Michael	Jones
Bentz	F.	Jordan
Bera	Duncan	Joyce (OH)
Bergman	Dunn	Joyce (PA)
Beyer	Ellzey	Kahele
Bice (OK)	Emmer	Kaptur
Biggs	Escobar	Katko
Bilirakis	Eshoo	Keating
Bishop (GA)	Españolat	Keller
Bishop (NC)	Estes	Kelly (IL)
Blumenauer	Evans	Kelly (MS)
Blunt Rochester	Fallon	Kelly (PA)
Boebert	Feenstra	Khanna
Bonamici	Ferguson	Kildee
Bost	Fischbach	Kilmer
Bourdeaux	Fitzgerald	Kim (CA)
Bowman	Fitzpatrick	Kim (NJ)
Boyle, Brendan	Fleischmann	Kind
F.	Fletcher	Kinzing
Brady	Fortenberry	Kirkpatrick
Brooks	Foster	Krishnamoorthi
Brown (MD)	Fox	Kustoff
Brown (OH)	Frankel, Lois	LaHood
Brownley	Franklin, C.	LaMalfa
Buchanan	Scott	Lamb
Buck	Fulcher	Lamborn
Bucshon	Gaetz	Langevin
Budd	Gallagher	Larsen (WA)
Burchett	Galligo	Larsen (CT)
Burgess	Garamendi	Latta
Bush	Garbarino	LaTurner
Bustos	Garcia (CA)	Lawrence
Butterfield	Garcia (IL)	Lawson (FL)
Calvert	Garcia (TX)	Lee (CA)
Cammack	Gibbs	Lee (NV)
Carbajal	Gimenez	Leger Fernandez
Cárdenas	Gohmert	Lesko
Carey	Golden	Letlow
Carl	Gomez	Levin (CA)
Carson	Gonzales, Tony	Levin (MI)
Carter (GA)	Gonzalez (OH)	Lieu
Carter (LA)	Gonzalez,	Lofgren
Carter (TX)	Vicente	Long
Cartwright	Good (VA)	Lowenthal
Case	Gooden (TX)	Lucas
Casten	Gosar	Luetkemeyer
Castor (FL)	Gottheimer	Luria
Castro (TX)	Granger	Lynch
Cawthorn	Graves (LA)	Mace
Chabot	Graves (MO)	Malinowski
Chu	Green (TN)	Malliotakis
Cicilline	Green, Al (TX)	Maloney,
Clark (MA)	Greene (GA)	Carolyn B.
Clarke (NY)	Griffith	Maloney, Sean
Cleaver	Grijalva	Mann
Cline	Grothman	Manning
Cloud	Guest	Masie
Clyburn	Guthrie	Mast
Clyde	Hagedorn	Matsui
Cohen	Harder (CA)	McBath
Cole	Harris	McCarthy
Comer	Harshbarger	McCaul
Connolly	Hartzler	McClain
Cooper	Hayes	McClintock
Correa	Hern	McCollum
Costa	Herrell	McEachin
Courtney	Herrera Beutler	McGovern
Craig	Hice (GA)	McHenry
Crawford	Higgins (LA)	McKinley
Crenshaw	Higgins (NY)	McNerney
Crist	Hill	Meeks
Crow	Himes	Meijer
Cuellar	Hinson	Meng
Curtis	Hollingsworth	Meuser

Mfume	Rodgers (WA)
Miller (IL)	Rogers (AL)
Miller (WV)	Rogers (KY)
Miller-Meeks	Rose
Moolenaar	Rosendale
Mooney	Ross
Moore (AL)	Rouzer
Moore (UT)	Roy
Moore (WI)	Roybal-Allard
Morelle	Ruiz
Moulton	Ruppersberger
Mrvan	Rush
Mullin	Rutherford
Murphy (FL)	Ryan
Murphy (NC)	Salazar
Nadler	Sánchez
Napolitano	Sarbanes
Neal	Scalise
Neguse	Scanlon
Nehls	Schakowsky
Newhouse	Schiff
Newman	Schneider
Norcross	Schrader
Norman	Schrier
Nunes	Schweikert
O'Halleran	Scott (VA)
Obernotte	Scott, Austin
Ocasio-Cortez	Scott, David
Omar	Sessions
Owens	Sewell
Palazzo	Sherman
Pallone	Sherrill
Palmer	Simpson
Panetta	Sires
Pascarell	Slotkin
Payne	Smith (MO)
Pence	Smith (NE)
Perlmutter	Smith (NJ)
Peters	Smith (WA)
Pfuger	Smucker
Phillips	Soto
Pingree	Spanberger
Pocan	Spartz
Porter	Speier
Posey	Stansbury
Pressley	Stanton
Price (NC)	Staubert
Quigley	Steel
Raskin	Stefanik
Reed	Steil
Reschenthaler	Steube
Rice (NY)	Stevens
Rice (SC)	Stewart

Strickland	Suozi
Swalwell	Swalwell
Takano	Takano
Taylor	Taylor
Tenney	Tenney
Thompson (CA)	Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)	Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)	Thompson (PA)
Tiffany	Tiffany
Timmons	Timmons
Titus	Titus
Tlaib	Tlaib
Tonko	Tonko
Torres (CA)	Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)	Torres (NY)
Trahan	Trahan
Trone	Trone
Turner	Turner
Underwood	Underwood
Upton	Upton
Valadao	Valadao
Van Drew	Van Drew
Van Dwyne	Van Dwyne
Vargas	Vargas
Veasey	Veasey
Velázquez	Velázquez
Wagner	Wagner
Walberg	Walberg
Walorski	Walorski
Waltz	Waltz
Wasserman	Wasserman
Schultz	Schultz
Waters	Waters
Watson Coleman	Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)	Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)	Webster (FL)
Welch	Welch
Wenstrup	Wenstrup
Westerman	Westerman
Wexton	Wexton
Wild	Wild
Williams (GA)	Williams (GA)
Williams (TX)	Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)	Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)	Wilson (SC)
Wittman	Wittman
Womack	Womack
Yarmuth	Yarmuth
Young	Young
Zeldin	Zeldin

NOT VOTING—6

Cheney	Loudermilk	Perry
Kuster	Pappas	Vela

□ 1600

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to make certain improvements to services and benefits for veterans and separating members of the Armed Forces with respect to apprenticeship programs, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Auchincloss	Lawson (FL)	Pressley
(Clark (MA))	(Evans)	(Bowman)
Blumenauer	Lesko (Joyce	Rice (NY)
(Beyer)	(PA)	(Murphy (FL))
Carter (LA)	Lowenthal	Roybal-Allard
(Kahele)	(Beyer)	(McCollum)
DeFazio (Brown	Matsui	Ruiz (Aguilar)
(MD))	(Thompson	Rush (Quigley)
Garcia (IL)	(CA)	Swalwell
(Ocasio-Cortez)	McEachin	(Gomez)
Grijalva	(Wexton)	Underwood
(Stanton)	Pascarell	(Casten)
Herrera Beutler	(Pallone)	Wilson (FL)
(Rodgers (WA))	Payne (Pallone)	(Hayes)
Horsford (Allred)	Phillips (Jacobs	Yarmuth (Beyer)
(CA)	(CA)	
Kirkpatrick	Porter (Wexton)	
(Stanton)		

CELEBRATING THE RELEASE OF DANNY FENSTER

(Mr. LEVIN of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I am thrilled to celebrate the release of my constituent, journalist Danny Fenster, who was unjustly detained for 5½ months by the military junta in Burma.

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all those involved in securing Danny's release, including: Governor Bill Richardson; our incredible diplomats in Burma, led by Ambassador Tom Vajda; Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs, or SPEHA, Ambassador Roger Carstens; the State Department, from Tony Blinken on down; Chairman GREGORY MEEKS, and all of my colleagues in the House who stepped up.

My heart is full for Danny's family. His parents, Buddy and Rose, his brother, Bryan, his amazing cousins, they have all shown such resilience, determination, and creativity throughout this difficult journey.

I am so grateful for the powerful outpouring of support across Michigan and this entire country. Our communities rallied together to support Danny and the Fenster family. And now, by sticking together and keeping the faith, we have brought Danny home.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Adrian Swann, one of his secretaries.

BIDEN'S BORDER CRISIS

(Mr. STAUBER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STAUBER. Madam Speaker, since Joe Biden took office, over 1.6 million illegals have been apprehended at our southern border. In fact, over 164,000 illegal immigrants were apprehended at the southern border just in October alone, marking the worst October in the history of the Department of Homeland Security.

And if you think Biden's border crisis is bad right now, it is about to get a whole lot worse. Included in Congressional Democrats' multitrillion-dollar socialist wish list is billions of dollars to green light illegal immigrant amnesty requests.

And recently, we learned that the Biden administration is contemplating paying illegal immigrants who broke our laws up to \$450,000 each. To put this number into perspective, \$450,000 is nine times the median income for the household in the district that I represent. To even consider these payouts is an insult to Americans who go to work every day and pay their taxes.

Madam Speaker, these policies are the definition of insanity, and it is no surprise that the majority of Americans think the country is headed in the wrong direction. It is time we change course and do it now.

Rather than allowing radicals to drive the agenda and push policies that incentivize more illegal immigration, let's work together to secure our border. Let's work together to put the American people first.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL ALEXANDER JEFFERSON

(Ms. TLAIB asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Jefferson, whose heroic service as a Tuskegee Airman in World War II was recognized this week in a rededication ceremony of Jefferson Field, and it was done on his 100th birthday.

A graduate of Detroit public schools, Alexander Jefferson pursued a military career and completed pilot training at the Tuskegee Army Airfield.

As a fighter pilot with the Red Tail, 332nd Fighter Group 301 Fighter Squadron, his unit escorted bombers head-first into action, bravely providing protection from vicious enemy aircraft. They never lost a single plane.

On August 12, 1944, Jefferson was shot down and captured by the Germans and kept as a prisoner of war for 9 months. He was liberated by the American forces on the 29th of April, 1945, and discharged from Active Duty in 1947.

After serving our country, Lieutenant Colonel Jefferson continued his public service by becoming a science teacher in Detroit, where he would retire as an assistant principal in 1979.

He has numerous awards for his bravery and I am honored to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Jefferson on this celebration of service to our country, and wish him also a beautiful, wonderful 100th birthday.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ROSS TOLLESON

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to remember and honor Ross Tolleason of Perry, Georgia.

Ross was a beloved and honored member of the Georgia State Senate, where he served from 2001–2015. Senator Tolleason represented the 20th Senatorial District, and he did so with a servant's heart, always working to better those that he represented. He served on the Committee on Natural Resources and Environment, chairing the Natural Resources Subcommittee for Appropriations.

Outside of the Senate, Ross served his community as a banker, an insurance salesman, and a tree farmer. He will forever be remembered for his selfless dedication to improving and assisting our great State.

I am thankful to have served with Ross and will always hold the time we spent together close to my heart. My thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends, and all who knew him during this most difficult time.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HUGH LEATHERMAN

(Mr. RICE of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor former South Carolina State Senator Hugh Leatherman. Senator Leatherman represented Florence, and I was proud to join him in many opportunities to serve our constituents in the Pee Dee.

Senator Leatherman passed away recently at age 90, while still holding office. He worked on behalf of South Carolinians nearly half his life, right up until his passing. And I have been told he even took next year's budget briefing from his hospital bed, exemplifying his true dedication to our State.

Senator Leatherman didn't hesitate to work across the aisle to get things done for the Seventh District and all South Carolinians. I have always known him to pursue smart, reasonable solutions and work hard to fix problems.

Senator Leatherman was the epitome of a public servant. He will be dearly missed in the halls of the South Carolina State House, and we will remember him as an accomplished and honorable man.

Rest in peace, Mr. Chairman.

AMERICAN SUPPLY CHAIN CRISIS

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, the American supply chain crisis has reached a very critical point. A record number of container ships are waiting to enter U.S. ports, especially off of L.A. and Long Beach. They even miss the trip up to Oakland sometimes, too.

This leaves small businesses and grocery stores with empty shelves. It leaves farmers and others that produce things in California and the U.S. waiting and wondering if they can get their products on to ships.

At the same time, reckless spending has caused inflation for Americans to skyrocket. Food on the shelves is more expensive. This isn't just a problem for upper-class people, as some in the administration are saying. This hits all Americans, especially those on fixed incomes, really hard.

Now, a good thing, everyone saved 16 cents on their Fourth of July barbecue

that the Biden administration was touting recently; though Thanksgiving is predicted to be the most expensive meal in the history of the holiday this year.

The current inflation rate has forced households to spend another \$175 a month on food, fuel, and housing; let alone what is coming in the home heating oil this winter.

Inflation has climbed over 6 percent in the last year, making it the worst year since 1990, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

We need to get to work solving this problem for the American people, not focusing on unprecedented spending sprees.

Happy Thanksgiving, everybody.

□ 1615

DEMOCRATS' TAX AND SPEND SPREE WILL DEFRAUD AMERICAN TAXPAYERS

(Mr. ROSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, today, I stand here, in the people's House, entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring taxpayers' hard-earned dollars are spent appropriately and with the proper oversight in place.

Yet, this week, House Democrats are pushing to ram through their fatally flawed, partisan, multitrillion-dollar tax and spend package, which uses taxpayer dollars and, no doubt, billions of dollars in borrowed money to fund their ultraliberal domestic spending priorities.

The gigantic \$3.5 trillion bill has apparently been cut down to \$1.75 trillion, which is still a lot.

What is in the \$1.75 trillion tax and spend spree? Amnesty for illegal immigrants, billions for tree equity, tax hikes on job creators and working Americans, and it doesn't end there.

The Democrats' package leaves out critical funding for the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security.

Democrats have gone so far as to break over 40 years of tradition by stripping the Hyde amendment from their package, a longstanding bipartisan provision that prevents taxpayer dollars from being used to fund abortions.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. STANSBURY). Without objection, the title of H.R. 147 is amended.

There was no objection.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE SITUATION IN NICARAGUA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 117-75)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the situation in Nicaragua declared in Executive Order 13851 of November 27, 2018, is to continue in effect beyond November 27, 2021.

The situation in Nicaragua, including the violent response by the Government of Nicaragua to the protests that began on April 18, 2018, and the Ortega regime's systematic dismantling and undermining of democratic institutions and the rule of law, its use of indiscriminate violence and repressive tactics against civilians, as well as its corruption leading to the destabilization of Nicaragua's economy, continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13851 with respect to the situation in Nicaragua.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, November 16, 2021.

DEMOCRATS DELIVERED ON INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARTWRIGHT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, to honor the memory of a 104-year-old hero of World War II and a survivor of

the infamous Bataan Death March, I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN).

MOMENT OF SILENCE HONORING BRIGADIER GENERAL BEN SKARDON

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding because I know that he, too, works hard for our Nation's veterans and the men and women who serve in the United States military.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and recognize a World War II and Korean war veteran, Colonel Ben Skardon, who was notified last week that he was set to receive an honorary promotion to the rank of Brigadier General.

After months of coordination and conversations between my office, the Department of the Army, the Department of Defense, Congress, and the family of Colonel Skardon, the Army and DOD have concurred with my recommendation and, in an extremely rare circumstance, approved Colonel Skardon's promotion to the rank of Brigadier General.

Very few American soldiers ever receive this honor in this manner, and it is well deserved on behalf of Colonel Skardon for his brave military service to our country.

Now, let me just tell you that Colonel Skardon served in World War II, and he was in the Philippines as commander of Company A of the 92nd Infantry Regiment Philippine Army and led his troops through some of the fiercest days of World War II in the South Pacific.

After the surrender of tens of thousands of Filipino and U.S. soldiers to Japanese forces on April 9, 1942, Skardon was forced into the infamous Bataan Death March. For 65 miles, Skardon and many others were forced to walk, suffering physical abuse, fatigue, and the mental exhaustion of watching the death of many fellow prisoners.

Colonel Skardon survived this horrific march because of his perseverance and commitment to his will to live. Skardon's strength and will continued for the 1,255 days he spent in Japanese prison as a prisoner of war.

He defied all odds with the help of two fellow Clemson University graduates who spoon-fed him and made sure he was safe from Japanese guards. Skardon managed to keep hidden his Clemson ring. As a Clemson alumnus who wears his ring proudly, I understand the sacrifice that he made to keep that hidden.

He and his fellow alumni made the tough decision to trade Colonel Skardon's gold Clemson ring for food and medicine, which ultimately saved his life. With the help of his fellow soldiers and his pawned ring, he recovered.

Skardon also survived the sinking of two unmarked hell ships, prisoner of war ships, that were transporting POWs to mainland Japan. Not just one but two prison ships were sunk by the United States military.

At 24 years old and only 90 pounds, he was finally liberated in Manchuria by Russian units in 1945.

After World War II, he went on to serve our Nation in the Korean war, retiring with the rank of colonel in 1962.

His leadership skills were exemplified by his continued military involvement with the young men and women in ROTC at Clemson who wanted to go on and serve in our military. Colonel Skardon would mentor them about what they faced.

For all of his valor, endurance, and suffering in World War II, he was awarded two Silver Stars and two Bronze Stars for valor. He was a Purple Heart recipient and a Congressional Gold Medal recipient.

When he retired, he continued his life of service as a professor at Clemson University for nearly 20 years. He earned several esteemed citizen and civilian awards, including the Clemson Medallion, Clemson University's highest honor; the Alumni Distinguished Service Award, the Clemson Alumni Association's highest honor; and from the State of South Carolina, the Order of the Palmetto.

His life of perseverance and selfless leadership exemplified what it means not only to be a United States soldier but a true American hero.

Colonel Skardon was informed of the promotion that he received from colonel to brigadier general just this weekend. Colonel Skardon was 104 years old. He passed away last night.

Working to secure his promotion to brigadier general is one of the most humbling acts that I have undertaken during my time in Congress, and I have no doubt that divine intervention was responsible for ensuring that he learned of this great honor that our country bestowed upon him before his passing.

My thoughts and prayers are with his family and the Clemson community during this time. He will be deeply missed, but he will never be forgotten.

To the family of General Ben Skardon, and to Ben, Godspeed. We appreciate your service to our great Nation. You wore that Clemson ring proudly. Clemson honored you. I honor you today, and I thank you for your service to our great Nation. Godspeed.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative DUNCAN for that fine tribute, and I ask, in harmony with Congressman DUNCAN, that this House observe a moment of silence in honor of the memory of this World War II hero, Colonel Ben Skardon.

Madam Speaker, this week, Democrats delivered on infrastructure.

Over the past number of years, we have had infrastructure week after infrastructure week. Eventually, infrastructure week became a joke.

Now, under the current administration, we have made good on our promise to rebuild the arteries of America. We have delivered a once-in-a-century investment in all the infrastructure that makes our Nation run.

It is the kind of investment that will create millions of good-paying jobs and make our Nation more competitive with every other country in the world.

When President Biden signed into law this bill, this act, yesterday, it was the largest investment in rebuilding bridges since the construction of the Interstate Highway System, the largest Federal investment in passenger rail since the original establishment of Amtrak, and the largest investment in clean drinking water in American history.

So important for my district in northeastern Pennsylvania, this will put northeastern Pennsylvania back on the passenger rail map, bring broadband internet to every rural area in my district, and support our efforts to reclaim all the abandoned mine land sites that have scarred our landscape for decades and fouled our watercourses for that length of time as well.

It will create millions of jobs, good-paying jobs, American jobs, union jobs, jobs that cannot be outsourced across the ocean.

This is truly a transformative law that will help us build a stronger middle class and a brighter future for our entire Nation.

What we are here to talk about this evening is what it means to us, this kind of investment, this kind of belief in our future here in America, what it means to us individually, in our particular districts.

I have here this evening my fellow Pennsylvanian from the Second Congressional District of Pennsylvania, Representative BRENDAN BOYLE.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE) so he can tell us what it means to him that we have made this historic investment in America.

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, the last President made the term “infrastructure week” a running joke. Under President Biden and Democrats in Congress, infrastructure decade is now a reality.

That decade officially began yesterday afternoon when my colleague and I and many others were over on the South Lawn of the White House to watch President Biden sign into law this historic investment in our Nation's infrastructure.

There are two points that I want to make about it. First, this was absolutely needed. Both the International Council of Engineers as well as the American Council of Engineers rated the state of America's infrastructure anywhere as good as a C-minus to as bad as an F, depending on the given year.

If you went back a century ago, the United States of America was the unquestioned leader in infrastructure. That is how we were able to build the American century. The fact that a century later we don't lead in that area should bother all of us as Americans.

I want America to be number one. That is what we are called to do, to

lead. Yet, the state of our infrastructure over years and years and decades had been allowed to fall behind. Well, not anymore. That is point number one, that it is needed.

□ 1630

Point number two, what it will produce is jobs. Frankly, the bipartisan infrastructure deal is a blue-collar blueprint for America.

My family's background is one that is typical of so many of us in Philadelphia—blue-collar, working-class background. There used to be jobs aplenty if you didn't have a college education, but the reality is, as the United States and most of the West has transformed into a knowledge economy, if you are a blue-collar American, the last several decades have not been that good for you.

Well, here is a piece of legislation to address that, to create millions of jobs that don't require a college degree.

I passionately believe, as cofounder and co-chair of the Blue Collar Caucus, that it is not sufficient to say to a whole swath of Americans: Well, if you don't have a higher education, too bad. Just go get retrained, figure it out on your own.

That is not good enough. We are talking about millions and millions of Americans who deserve to have family-sustaining jobs, who are smart, who are hard working. They just need their government to invest more in them, to create those opportunities.

Well, sure enough, that is exactly what this bill does. My colleague, my fellow Pennsylvanian went down the list of the investments that we are making: Roads, bridges, rail, mass transit, replacing lead pipes, high-speed internet. The list goes on and on. It is an investment in America and our people.

I am very proud that I voted in favor of this legislation, proud to have worked with my colleagues and this President to make this a reality.

And, finally, I do just want to pay a special thanks to the 19 Senate Republicans and 13 House Republicans who did the right thing and joined with us. Obviously, the overwhelming majority of votes for this legislation came from Democrats, but it really says something in this highly partisan time that we were able to get a significant number of friends from the other side of the aisle to join with us and do the right thing on this piece of legislation.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Will the gentleman yield for a question?

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Yes.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. You mentioned being number one and competing. What are you talking about, being number one, on what list? And who do we have to compete with?

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Let's face it, we are in a worldwide competition, especially against China. And let me be clear, I am speaking about the Chinese Government, not

its people. The Chinese regime does not share our values. It is not committed to democracy. Far from it. President Xi or dictator-for-life Xi actually challenges whether or not democracy will survive. We know that China, through its Belt and Road Initiative, is making infrastructure investments not only in China but in other parts of the world because they want to gain a foothold.

I feel passionately about this. As a proud American, I make no apologies for the fact that I want us to be number one in the world. But I believe that it is actually best, not just for the United States, but best for all people in the world who yearn to breathe free.

This infrastructure bill will help us not just domestically, but I do believe that as the United States grows, as we grow our economy, as we make an investment in people for whom the modern economy has not necessarily been a good deal, I believe we will help set a shining example to the rest of the world.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I thank Congressman BOYLE for his insights about the competition aspect.

By delivering this infrastructure bill yesterday afternoon, as we did, Democrats are delivering millions of good-paying union jobs, jobs that will put pipefitters and plumbers to work replacing lead water pipes so every child in America can drink clean water. No more will we have the Flint, Michigans where little kids get poisoned by lead in their drinking water, because we are going to rip out all that 100-year-old piping with the lead in it so that won't happen again.

We will transform roads, rail, bridges, public transit, modernize our ports and airports and freight rail, manufacture solar panels, wind farms, batteries, electric vehicles to grow clean energy supply chains that we can export to the rest of the world.

This is a transformational moment not only for the American economy but for the American future and the American people.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from the 4th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, Congresswoman MADELEINE DEAN, to elucidate further on what it means that we enacted this law yesterday afternoon. So far it is all Pennsylvanians.

Ms. DEAN. Madam Speaker, I am so excited about this bill that I have gone hoarse talking about it, so I apologize for my gravelly voice, but it is not from any lack of enthusiasm for the bipartisan infrastructure bill, which is really a jobs bill.

I want to just commend my colleagues from Pennsylvania and from around the country, as we fought for this bill, as we fought for this infrastructure investment, and as we voted on it, and then yesterday had the historic day of watching our President sign it into law.

Madam Speaker, it was 10 years ago that I first ran for public office. I ran for township commissioner, and what I

said then was that I wanted to build a more buildable, walkable, commutable, bikeable infrastructure for my older-rising suburb of Philadelphia.

Little did I know that I would then go on to serve as State representative for 6½ years. My proudest vote as a State representative was Act 89 of 2013, a bipartisan, multiyear investment in our infrastructure. My proudest vote.

And look at us today. We now have the chance to make this much-needed investment in Pennsylvania and across the country in every district where dollars will be flowing to modernize our infrastructure, to make it greener.

Here are just some of the estimates for what will be coming to Pennsylvania:

\$11.3 billion to upgrade roads and highways. We know that in my older-rising suburb our highways, our roads are in grave need of upgrading for safety and other purposes;

\$2.8 billion for public transportation. Again, in my suburbs, we rely upon public transportation, and we want it to be more reliable so that more people will be using it with ease to protect our climate and our streets;

\$1.4 billion in safe drinking water. Again, incredibly important across this country, whether from lead pipes, or from, as in my district and many others, the contamination of PFAS;

\$244 million investment in weatherization to our homes;

\$1.6 billion toward improving bridges. Pennsylvania sadly has a historic number of bridges in need of reconstruction or replacement;

\$100 million to expand broadband access; and

\$355 million to modernize airport infrastructure.

There is so much we will be able to do with this bipartisan investment in our infrastructure.

Know also that it is about growing jobs, good jobs, jobs of the future, and it is also anti-inflationary, which is something I know all of my constituents care about.

I will end maybe on my grandchildren. I am so excited, and I will be telling them for years about the chance to work on the bipartisan infrastructure bill, the chance to vote for it, and the chance to stand alongside the President as he signed this 50-, 60-year investment in their futures. I hope they will be as proud as I am of the President and all of us for getting it done.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Will the gentleman yield for a question?

Ms. DEAN. Certainly.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. It is a sad question, I have to say, because we call it the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, but the truth is, despite their best efforts to claim credit in local news across the country, 206 House Republicans voted against this bill. They voted against good-paying American jobs, they voted against roads, bridges, and rail systems, water systems and sewer systems, against

broadband, and clean drinking water. They voted against the tools that we need to compete and win in the global economy as Representative BOYLE pointed out.

My question is why? Why would they vote against this belief in our country, this investment in our future? Why would they vote against it?

Ms. DEAN. I certainly don't know what is in their heart or what is in their vote. But I will say that these were infrastructure investments that these very same Representatives fought for under the previous administration. They enthusiastically embraced week, after week, after week, after week as Infrastructure Week.

I hope this is not the case, but sadly it seems as though the investments in their communities came down to a political choice because, as you have heard some people say—and they complain about this, but it is only testimony to the power of this bill—that this will actually perhaps give Democrats a win.

We didn't do it for a win. We did it for a win for the American people, for our infrastructure, and for our future, but there is some awareness on the other side of the aisle that this is politically damaging to them. Sad to say.

I do believe that it will be interesting to be at all the ribbon cuttings, and I hope in a bipartisan way all Members are at the ribbon cuttings because of the difference this will make, and it will be up to them to decide why they did vote “no.”

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I thank Congresswoman MADELEINE DEAN of the 4th Congressional District of Pennsylvania.

This bill does so much, and we are so proud here tonight to talk about it. It is a win for the American people no matter which way you slice it.

Building out our first ever national network of charging stations so families can travel coast to coast in electric vehicles, making high-speed internet available and affordable for every household in America, especially those rural, hard-to-get-to places, cleaning up brownfields and Superfund sites, as well as plugging, as I said before, abandoned mine lands and orphan wells to stop pollution and protect public health and to build up our resistance to superstorms, droughts, wildfires, and hurricanes that cost us billions of dollars in damage, \$99 billion last year alone.

This bipartisan infrastructure deal is a blue-collar blueprint to rebuild America, and a majority of these jobs, as Representative BOYLE pointed out, do not require a college degree.

So the question is, what does it mean to us? What does it mean to us that we have passed this magnificent, enormous investment in American infrastructure, this belief in our Nation's future?

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) to describe what it means to him and his 1st District constituents.

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for convening this Special Order hour.

The impact of this legislation is significant in my home State of Rhode Island and all across our country. The United States has the largest economy in the world, yet our roads and bridges are crumbling, our ports and airports are in disrepair, over 10 million households do not have safe drinking water. This is unacceptable.

We cannot compete in a global economy unless we can move goods, services, and information to compete in the 21st century.

The bipartisan infrastructure bill which President Biden signed, and we worked hard to pass, invests \$550 billion in new funding to bring America's infrastructure into the 21st century so that we cannot only improve the quality of life, grow our economy, create millions of good-paying jobs, but also to ensure that we can compete globally.

This legislation, which the President signed yesterday, includes the largest ever Federal investments in public transit, clean drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, and clean energy transmission and electric vehicle infrastructure. It includes the largest investment in passenger rail since the creation of Amtrak, and the largest dedicated bridge investment since we built the Interstate Highway System.

This legislation will create millions of good-paying union jobs while also addressing the critical infrastructure needs of our country and of my home State of Rhode Island.

This monumental investment in infrastructure is the first part of a plan to not only create good-paying jobs but to ensure Americans have the support they need to succeed in those jobs. Combined with the Build Back Better Act, these two historic bills will create 1½ million good-paying jobs each year over the next decade and accelerate America's path to full employment.

□ 1645

For Rhode Island with this bill enacted into law, we will see \$2.5 billion coming straight to Rhode Island to help fix our roads and bridges, replace lead pipes, improve our public transportation system, and increase broadband access. And that is not to mention the billions of dollars in dedicated funding for Amtrak's Northeast corridor, which will certainly benefit Rhode Islanders and all of us in New England.

Our State has the highest percentage of structurally deficient bridges in the country. In 2019, 22.3 percent of our bridges were structurally deficient. In 2020, our State's infrastructure was given a C minus by the American Society of Civil Engineers.

This is unacceptable and unsafe.

The funding streams that this legislation will provide are the following: \$1.5 billion for Federal aid highway apportioned programs; \$242 million for

bridge replacement and repairs in Rhode Island; \$272 million to improve public transportation in Rhode Island; \$23 million to support expansion of the State's electric vehicle charging network in Rhode Island; \$100 million to expand broadband connectivity, including providing access to the 14,000 Rhode Islanders who currently lack it; and 247,000 Rhode Islanders, 24 percent of Rhode Island, will be eligible for the Affordable Connectivity Benefit to help working families afford internet access; \$2 million to protect against wildfires; \$10.9 million to protect against cyberattacks; \$378 million to improve water infrastructure; and \$45 million for our airports.

These are significant, historic investments in rebuilding the infrastructure of our State, and the same thing is happening in States all across America.

I salute the President for his strong leadership. I salute my colleagues that worked so hard on this legislation. It is going to help ensure that America can compete again in the global economy.

And most importantly, it will improve the quality of our lives for our constituents. It will improve our economy. It will grow good-paying jobs. And it will make America proud of the quality of its infrastructure once again.

I want to end by particularly acknowledging the men and women in the building trades who are going to do this work; and do it with such pride that they are not only going to improve our economy, but also improve our quality of life. I salute all of the men and women in the building trades.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. You also mentioned competition, and Congressman BOYLE brought that up. And you also mentioned how much is going into broadband internet availability in Rhode Island.

How does that affect competition and the ability of Rhode Islanders to compete?

Mr. CICILLINE. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. I yield to the gentleman from Rhode Island.

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for the question.

I think when you look at particularly what we experienced during COVID, we saw some of the difficulties that families—particularly families with young children—had in accessing the internet so they could receive school instruction. And the reality is you need internet connections to access the world and to be able to communicate and be able to learn in the 21st century.

And there were young people who were actually going to parking lots of McDonald's and other places that might have internet to do their homework. That can't happen in America.

And so we want to ensure that rebuilding our infrastructure provides opportunities for every single young person in this country to realize their full potential. Because we are not just

competing with the kid next door, we are competing with kids in China, Japan, and all over the world.

We want to ensure that we have an infrastructure to support the economic growth we need. We also want to ensure that we can deliver goods, services, and information in the 21st century and that we are training young people and educating young people and training workers to compete successfully. You can't do that without infrastructure to support that development, that knowledge, and the work that needs to be done.

You think of the experiences we saw during COVID. It made it very clear that we needed to move quickly. Our competitors around the world are investing tens of billions of dollars in infrastructure. They are competing directly with us.

This is a race for the 21st century and a race we are going to win in large part because we are finally investing in America's infrastructure.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I think Mr. CICILLINE is right. I think competition is maybe the biggest point of the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Competition that will not only grease the skids for our companies to bring their products to market and to innovate and to compete with companies all over the world, but maybe more importantly, to allow our individuals—as Mr. CICILLINE just pointed out—to make the most of themselves.

It was about 80 years ago that we had the Rural Electrification Act in the United States, and it did pretty much the same thing with electricity because you had pockets, little corners of America, rural places mostly, that didn't have electric power. And to think how far they would have been left behind if 80 years ago the government didn't make the effort to include all of America as we moved forward into the modern age of electricity; it is the same thing with internet connectivity, isn't it?

Mr. CICILLINE. Absolutely.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, another thing we did in the past to invest in ourselves was the Eisenhower Interstate Highway System. This was something that the greatest generation did, Madam Speaker. They came back from World War II—we just honored a World War II hero of the Bataan Death March—but these folks came home from all of the privations and sacrifices and suffering that they went through in the war, and what did they do? They sacrificed more for us for the future, what was then the future, what is now us. They sacrificed for us. They built the Eisenhower Interstate Highway System.

What did it do? It greased the skids for American companies, enabled companies to bring their products to market faster and more cheaply and in a way that enabled them to compete with every other country in the world.

This is the kind of investment that makes America win in competitions all over the world.

You don't have to be an engineer to understand these things. You don't have to be a mechanical engineer to know that this is exactly what we need to be doing in the United States of America these days. It was a wonder that it took until now.

Certainly, my entire time in Congress I have been waiting for a major infrastructure bill to come through to beef up our roads and our bridges; our water systems and our sewer systems; our broadband internet; and move us into the next century to compete with China, Europe, Russia, and all of the places that would do away with us if they could beat us.

It was just yesterday afternoon that this bill, the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, was signed into law on the south lawn of the White House. And who was sitting next to me in the chair to my left, but Representative PAUL TONKO of the 20th District of New York, who happens to be a mechanical engineer, and he knows one or two things about making things work; making them work better, more efficiently, faster, and cheaper.

What does it mean to you, Representative TONKO, that we pass this bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act?

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO).

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for leading us in this discussion this evening.

So what does the infrastructure bill mean to my district, mean to me? I think it is sharpening our competitive edge.

And when you are out there functioning in a global economy, we may not be the only force out there as we were decades ago, and so sharpening that pencil and making certain we cut costs, costs for families, costs for production, and providing for resources that will put the tools in the kit that are required for a 21st century economy is what it is all about. We have back-burnered infrastructure for far too long.

Having been here now, this is my 13th year in Congress, infrastructure is not a Democratic or Republican idea. People have been talking about it in both Chambers in both parties for a long time. And every week in the last administration was infrastructure week.

But finally it took leadership.

President Biden, with his experience of almost four decades in the Senate and serving as Vice President, knew about those relationships. He knew that you had to negotiate across party lines, you had to negotiate across House lines to make certain that working with his administration and with his cabinet officials we would come up with a blueprint for a sound economy. And that is exactly what happened here.

Yesterday's bill signing was exciting. We were sitting together on that south lawn.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. It was chilly.

Mr. TONKO. It was chilly and windy, so it felt even chillier than it was. But what was so important to recognize and to consume was that what you had here was a President who is in the likes of Abraham Lincoln, who built an intercontinental rail system; President Teddy Roosevelt, who set up a National Parks System; President Dwight Eisenhower, who set up the Interstate Highway System. This person stands as a giant when it comes to infrastructure now, someone who brought us together; and it wasn't talk on and on, it was negotiations. And finally now the first step in this process, the huge downpayment on our infrastructure, is very vital.

So to me it is about competition, but it is also about hope, providing a spirit of hope for working families in this country to know that there is a bolder tomorrow.

I liken our country to the pioneer spirit. I think it is part of our DNA. We showed again that there is spirit, spirit to embrace invention and innovation as we are going through R&D dollars to develop more efficiency and effectiveness with wind power.

We are going to invest in my State and across the 50 States in infrastructure that ranges from roads and bridges to ports, making them more secure, more equipped for the modern economy, making certain that we are providing for a response to the transportation sector for climate's sake.

This allows us to be better stewards in protecting our planet, making certain the next generations that follow us will have a better world. That is done by us making certain that in my State where there are those nonattainment areas, in accordance with the Clean Air Act, they will now clean up that air that they breathe; the water that they drink; the soils that they can restore. That is part of an economic response.

And as we restore some of those sites—many of them are in communities of color, neighborhoods of Brown and Black people, who will now prosper because they will remediate these soils and now go forward with opportunities for work.

So this is about putting people to work. The jobs that will be part of this will be tremendous. And it is just a green light to go forward and really focus on our efforts as we travel forward to invest in those dynamics that truly matter.

I look at my State, they are scheduled to receive approximately—we are still working out the numbers—some \$30 million to build our airports into a stronger bit of infrastructure. Important in international travel. Making certain that we invest in the Northeast corridor with Amtrak. Our rail system requires, for safety sake and ridership time, an investment. And so those dol-

lars of some \$66 billion will be going towards Amtrak. \$100 billion going towards roads and bridges in this country. Making certain that we address one of the issues very important to the subcommittee that I chair, the Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change, that reports to the standing Committee on Energy and Commerce, that subcommittee under its umbrella has the responsibilities of implementing the Safe Drinking Water Act. And what we found is that we need to invest heavily in our drinking water infrastructure.

Think of it, the spaghetti below our communities, below our feet, is so critical in getting a commodity that is essential, sound, pristine drinking water to industry, to homes, to schools. That begins and ends with sound infrastructure.

And some of this infrastructure, Representative CARTWRIGHT, is dating back to the days of Rutherford B. Hayes in the White House.

We are not content with our phones because they are outdated, and we have had them 2 years. We are not content with our TV screen because it is not large enough. We are tired of the miles on the car or the color of it, so we get a new vehicle. But we are content to sit there with 100-year-old pipes that are providing an essential commodity for this economy and for the safety of people in their homes and in schools.

So this is about investing \$55 billion in lead pipe removal, which is going to put a lot of pipefitters and plumbers into working situations as they replace these pipes. No child, no family should be drinking water that is lead infested. And for us to know that there are 10,000 pipes actively serving communities across this country, it is far past time to respond to that replacement mechanism, which this bill does.

So, obviously, I am listening to the colloquy you have had with so many of our colleagues tonight, and we can go on and on about the benefits of this bill. There are tremendous benefits that put people to work in union jobs so that they will be given a salary, a check, a paycheck that is commensurate with the skill and the talent they bring for all of us as Americans.

□ 1700

And putting people to work, stronger stewardship of our planet, and innovation concepts that will take us to the next economy of the 21st century, these are all virtuous outcomes. And how 206 Members of this House could vote against infrastructure when they talked about it, they touted it for years. But they were okay to support a tax cut that went to the 1 percent of wealth of this country and some of the largest corporations in the world. But for the working families, for the middle class community of this country, for those looking to ascend the middle class, there was a "no" vote, while you could have made it so competitive, sharpen that competitive edge, give us

the skills and the talents and the resources we need, making certain we go forward with a sense of hope, a spirit of hope that we can do, that we can embrace that pioneer spirit of this country.

Madam Speaker, the President yesterday said to the President of China, I believe it was, when he asked him, What is America? How would you define it?

Possibilities. Opportunity. Possibility. Pioneer spirit. All of that comes together in one venue that is enabled by these bills that are going to address infrastructure. And that bill signing yesterday for that infrastructure bill, that was a powerful statement, a powerful moment. One that says "can do." Yes, America. We are back. We are going to make certain that all of the good work that is done will improve our economy, strengthen our economy, and provide for a competitive edge that will keep us the strong economy in the world that we ought to be.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. It is an afternoon we won't soon forget.

Mr. TONKO. Not at all.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Will the gentleman yield for a question?

Mr. TONKO. Absolutely.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Well now, of course, the press has noted with interest that it took us weeks and months to sort out all the details and finally get it to the White House for signature.

Here is my question: Contrast those weeks and months with how long will this country benefit from the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act? How long?

Mr. TONKO. Oh my gosh, this is generational. We haven't seen this kind of investment in ages. So when we look back at that interstate railroad system, we look back at the park system, we look back at the interstate issues, these are infrastructure investments that are still providing for us.

I look at some of the work that came under President Franklin Roosevelt's administration and the infrastructure in my district, phenomenal schools that are like fortresses that are part of the cityscape, the landscape of any community that are still tremendous bits of architecture that are serving a very useful purpose.

When we think about the Rural Electrification Act of about a century ago, people are still prospering from that connection. As you called it, the pockets that were unserved or underserved.

So this is going to be a lifetime and beyond for even the youngest of our communities, as we celebrated yesterday.

We look at the broadband that is also part of this process, how can you allow for communities to go unserved or underserved. This is about children doing their homework. This is about cottage industry surviving and growing. This is about security for those who live in remote rural areas or in some poor neighborhoods. This is a connection with the outside world. So the connection that

comes with this via rail, via airports, via jobs, via infrastructure, via water systems that will serve us well.

I remember being back in the beginning of my elected capacity in a county government situation. We were much stronger in our response to water. Today, we are at about 4½ percent of any project—4½ percent is contributed from the Federal Government. It is time to change that.

And you know what, the message that I think is important also, Representative CARTWRIGHT, is that these issues, these concerns, these needs—and they are needs—don't go away. So either pay for them at a Federal level where there are much more progressive opportunities to create the revenues—and by the way, this is all paid for, which is a great highlight—but we had those more progressive opportunities for revenues rather than relying on a property tax as it percolates down into the most local of levels and say, Okay, you need this water, dig into the purse for the property tax. Unfair. Unacceptable.

So we are here now celebrating what can be a golden moment. It was just great to gather together yesterday and see mayors of both parties, see governors of both parties, see the cabinet officials, seeing union labor, seeing the private sector, seeing the faith community, all gathering together applauding and recognizing the leadership, the profound leadership of President Biden, Vice President HARRIS, their Cabinet, and certainly those who voted for the measure in the Senate and in the House here in Washington.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Will the gentleman yield for another question?

Mr. TONKO. Sure.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. So we have all been seeing these images of 75, 80 cargo ships off the coast of California, Long Beach, Los Angeles, waiting to get in because we are starting up our economy after the pandemic was shut down. Obviously, it is not something we went to school for—shutting down an American economy and starting it back up—but that is what we are doing, and we are muddling through it. And there are some painful price hikes here and there because of it—hard to say how long they will go on.

But the one thing that struck me was all of those containerships full, they told me that it takes 7,000 tractor-trailers to unload a containership. That is 7,000 containers on a ship, and over 70 or 80 ships out there in the harbor. All of these manufactured goods coming from China.

And it said to me, we read about the trade imbalance, we learn about the trade imbalance, we learn that China is out-manufacturing us and we are buying their goods. But, man, until you see those ships out in the harbor offshore, it doesn't really hit home how much they are beating us at manufacturing. What does this bill do to address that?

Mr. TONKO. Well, of course, we are modernizing our ports. We are modern-

izing our roads and bridges. We are making certain that we have a state-of-the-art grid for electricity sake so that as you integrate renewables, and integrate distributed generation; you need that state-of-the-art grid. So all of this investment, starting with the modernization of the ports allows us to take this in.

You brought up a really good point. This pandemic rocked this economy here in the U.S. and around the world in a way that we haven't seen in over 100 years. And for us now to be experiencing this aftermath shouldn't be a surprise. People are staying home not spending. They didn't go shopping; they were afraid, as they should be. They were warned not to go into stores and spread the virus.

So it rocked the economy. And so there was a supply that was building, and the demand was way down. And now we are trying to steady this out. This infrastructure issue will help us. We need to work through this now to steady the economy because we saw spikes that obviously aren't acceptable.

The President and his team will use this infrastructure measure and other concepts to make certain we come back and steady the economy in a way that will get us back to normal—that is so important to do—and to be visionary.

I see that Representative ROSS is going to join us from North Carolina, and we have been working together—perhaps you have been working with Representative ROSS, too—on offshore wind. There is a visionary piece. And there is a way for us to really build the energy supply in a way that is going to put a lot of people to work.

So Representative CARTWRIGHT, thank you for leading us in this discussion tonight.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. And I like the point about how shutting down for the pandemic, it kind of taught us a lot of things about our own economy, about the pockets of, for example, the gig workers nobody was thinking about at the outset; we had to include them in the relief money. But, man, when we saw these ships piling up offshore, it really brought home to me really how we are being out-manufactured and we have to pick up our game.

Investing in our infrastructure, what do you think? Is it going to help?

Mr. TONKO. This bill is definitely going to address the supply-chain concern. The pandemic was so instructive—supply chain, technology, reliance on technology—making certain we learn these lessons; take them to mind, take them to heart, and respond. And this administration is about that.

A golden moment, a celebratory moment, once in a lifetime, once in a generation, I am just proud to witness it. Proud to witness it and to have cast a “yes” vote.

I thank all of my colleagues in the House that voted yes for strengthening the muscle of the American economy and the American worker.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. It is a victory for America that we will treasure and favor for many years to come.

Mr. TONKO. No matter what political label you have at the end of the day, we are all going to prosper.

When you see these headlines across the country, “billions coming to X State,” and then the sidebar discussion: Entire delegation voted “no.” You explain it to the public.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative PAUL TONKO from the 20th District of New York for his insights and also for helping me introduce our next speaker, the dynamic Representative ROSS from the Second District of North Carolina, where innovation is second nature.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ROSS).

Ms. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I thank Congressman CARTWRIGHT for yielding and for his leadership.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act that will bring America's aging infrastructure into the 21st century.

I was honored to join Madam Speaker and our other colleagues at the White House as the President signed this historic legislation into law.

In Congress, I am extremely proud to represent Wake County, North Carolina, one of the fastest growing counties in the United States. We are a powerful economic engine for our State and for our region, but, sadly, our infrastructure has not grown with our community. We need seamless transportation networks to connect Wake County to the rest of the Nation—modern infrastructure that can help us bring the innovation that happens in the Research Triangle to the country and to the world.

This historic legislation will help us, our people, get to work and school and products from our groundbreaking companies get to markets across America and around the globe.

In North Carolina, there are about 1,500 bridges and more than 3,000 highways in poor condition. This bill will devote \$110 billion to upgrade roads and bridges and finance other major transportation projects.

Over the next 20 years, North Carolina's drinking water infrastructure will require billions in additional funding.

This bill provides funds to replace lead pipes in the country and help ensure that all of our children can enjoy clean drinking water. It will also address the toxic threat of PFAS contamination.

This bill modernizes our Nation's electric grid to protect against storm damage and unlock the full potential of clean energy. It also creates jobs in the clean energy manufacturing sector, a sector where our State is positioned to lead the Nation.

In addition, it expands broadband connectivity in underserved communities, helping to ensure that all of our

students and businesses can access dependable, affordable internet.

The jobs created by this infrastructure package are jobs that cannot be outsourced. This package will boost all of our workers, from the folks who pave the roads to the scientists and engineers who are designing 21st century transportation networks, more efficient water and sewer systems, and cutting edge electrical grids.

Thanks to this package, engineering graduates from schools like North Carolina State and graduates from Wake Tech, Shaw, and St. Augustine's—all in my district—will help build the bridges in our communities that one day many years from now they will proudly show their grandchildren.

We are delivering on the President's promise to pass legislation that improves the lives of ordinary people and creates good-paying jobs.

This bill is a testament to what we can achieve when we give bipartisanship a chance, when we set our differences aside and commit to the hard work of finding common ground.

This is good for North Carolina and great for the country.

□ 1715

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, may I ask how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 3 minutes remaining.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA).

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend, Congressman CARTWRIGHT, for allowing me the opportunity to speak on the bipartisan infrastructure package. The fact of the matter is, this is long overdue.

We have been living off the investments our parents and our grandparents made a generation or two ago. During most of the 20th century, America led the world in investment in its water, in its transportation, in its electrical grid, all the things that have made us the great country that we are.

In recent decades, we have lagged behind. We now rank 13th in the world in terms of the amount of investment that we make in American people because investing in our water, in our transportation, in our roads and bridges, in our internet system, that is investing in people. That is investing in people who create jobs that make the economy better.

As a result of the passage of this bipartisan infrastructure bill, for the first time in a long time, America will lead the world next year in investments in the future in our water, our transportation, our electrical grid, and all the things that are a part of this piece of legislation.

We can't just take our eye off the ball. We have to continue these investments. In California, in the San Joaquin Valley that I represent, these in-

vestments are going to be billions of dollars in our water system. We have horrific droughts that we are experiencing right now. With climate change and the other efforts in this legislation to deal with the impacts of climate change, we need to ensure that we have a sustainable water supply in California for our farms and farm communities, as well as ensuring that we have clean drinking water for rural areas that don't have it today. This legislation does just that.

This legislation also takes an opportunity to look at the other areas that we need to do in the next piece of legislation: childcare for millions of women who want to get back to work; and providing efforts to improve our healthcare system, to fully fund the Affordable Care Act, a promise we made 11 years ago.

My district had 25 percent uninsured. Eleven years later, only 10 percent of my district is uninsured. These are the kind of investments we need to make in people.

I thank my colleagues for supporting this effort. Yesterday was a wonderful afternoon with the President, with my colleagues, Republicans and Democrats alike, to really celebrate the fact that we are beginning to do what the American people sent us to do, which is get the job done and invest in our country.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ECONOMIC CRUELTY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Speaker, we are going to do a couple of things tonight. Most of it is going to be economic heavy. We are going to actually go over the Democrat's social spending bill and its economic effects.

First, I wanted to touch on something that I am somewhat hopeful that the left and the right could embrace. I am thinking of what we have gone through for almost 2 years now, and that is the pandemic. If I came to you tomorrow and said: Okay. We have vaccinations, but we are about to have therapeutics.

Think about this. You have all seen the news that we now have a second drug company. The Wall Street Journal today has an amazing, wonderful article on protease inhibitors and their effectiveness. The fact that Pfizer has publicly said their antiviral medication is up around 89 percent effective, it is a lot of pills that may need to be taken with a second pharmaceutical, but isn't this the holy grail?

We have talked about this over and over, saying you now have home COVID tests. Now you can take your antiviral at home. And you start to understand the elegance of how this type of antiviral works in sort of snipping

the proteins and making them so they don't grow or they can't attach to the cell walls.

So if this exists technology-wise, and one of the antivirals is already in front of the FDA today. I think we saw a news clip this afternoon that the second one may be presented on Tuesday. The Pfizer pharmaceutical will be presented to the FDA, but it may take a month or so.

If we are in a world now where we have multiple vaccines, we actually now have therapeutics and antiviral home testing kits—you can take the antiviral at home—it is time, once these are approved, to declare the pandemic over.

Why is this really important? Think of the societal friction, the battles we have created by mask mandates, by vaccine mandates. We now see the data of how, in our labor supply, folks are saying: No, I believe in body autonomy. I am not taking the vaccine or doing this or doing that.

The reality of it is, we have been so successful as a country, as a society, in believing in science. Remember, how many times did we hear that, believing in science?

If the FDA approves, which we are hopeful maybe it happens in the next month, the antivirals—and the press releases from the pharmaceutical companies are that there will be a couple hundred thousand sets by the end of this year and apparently millions available starting in the new year—it is time to declare the pandemic over.

Our office has put together a piece of legislation, and we are going to put it in circulation once we have sort of vetted it in the next couple of days. I would encourage any of my brothers and sisters on the left and the right that, if you believe in science and you really want a solution, it is time to embrace the fact of how far we have come and the solution is here.

We are going to do a little bit of basic economics and try to tap some of the discussion that I think has been missed on the left's social spending bill.

First, let's have an honest conversation on where we are economically right now and what our world looks like. If any of you are planning on having a retirement, if any of you have children or grandchildren and you actually give a darn about them, first understand how much trouble we are in immediately, right now, today.

The CBO numbers, in 29 years, we are at \$112 trillion of borrowed money. That is inflation adjusted, 112 trillion public dollars. This isn't borrowing where we take credit for borrowing from trust funds. This is publicly borrowed, inflation-adjusted. Functionally, in 29 budget years, we are at \$112 trillion. That is the CBO estimate.

If you are a young person—and you want to be honest with them—your economic future is about to be brutalized.

The reality of it is, I have done this on the floor multiple times. It is fascinating how many on the left, and

even the right, when you start to walk through what drives U.S. sovereign debt, it is a very uncomfortable conversation.

The fact of the matter is, Medicare is the primary driver of U.S. sovereign debt. Social Security is second. The rest of the budget is in balance.

At the end of the 30-year model, right now, according to the CBO, the rest of the budget, if you strip Medicare and if you strip Social Security out, the budget actually has a positive balance.

If you believe it is a moral obligation for us to keep our promises that Medicare will be there, that Social Security will be there, why isn't this what we work on every day instead of discussions about how we can spend a whole bunch more money, take over a whole bunch more of the economy, slow the economy down and make this Nation poorer?

What we are going to show is the economic models that show the Democrats' spending bill actually crushes poor people. It actually makes the working poor poorer. It makes society poor. I don't believe that is the intention, but it is the economics.

Sometimes, when you get your math wrong, it is a level of cruelty.

A simple thought experiment: What are the two things that you do to crush the working poor? Inflation.

Well, we are doing a great job on that, aren't we? The fact of the matter is, what inflation does to the working poor is economic cruelty.

The second thing, you open your borders up, adding millions of individuals with similar skill sets. Say you are that individual that didn't finish high school, but you are out there hanging drywall. You have a family. You are getting good at your profession. You are trying to learn how to move up. Then you flood the market with people with similar skill sets.

There are great peer-reviewed papers out there that talk about just what we have done at the border. A decade from now, you made the working poor poorer and now overlay what all this spending has done inflation-wise.

If we, as Members of Congress, give a darn about the working poor, the economic violence that is being committed right now by the policies coming out of this Congress, it is time to step up and deal with the reality.

The problem is, the working poor aren't our contributors. They are not the ones showing up here lobbying us. They are the individuals we have a moral obligation to do good things for, and that is not what is happening.

We are going to walk through some of where we are today. You have to understand that the national debt right now is projected to leap to 200 percent in 2050, so, functionally, 29 budget cycles from now. If the Biden proposals—these are the ones that were proposed during the election, and I have to accept a bunch of that has been trimmed back in the debate, not as much as you might think. We are going to go over that.

You go, functionally, from 200 percent of debt to GDP—meaning the borrowed money will be 200 times bigger than the GDP. If you add it all up, in 29 budget years, you are over 328 percent of debt to GDP.

If any of you are thinking about having a retirement, if you are thinking about your kids, your grandkids, this is what wipes us out as a society. It is terrifying to talk about because it is hard. It requires lots of levers.

You have to get immigration right. You have to get finance right. You have to get spending right. You have to get tax policy right. You have to do everything that maximizes economic expansion. Then the holy grail: You are going to have to crash the price of healthcare, not shift around who pays for it.

Remember, the ACA, many of you know it as ObamaCare, the Republican alternative, Medicare for All, in many ways it is about who pays and who gets subsidized. It is not about what we pay.

I cannot tell you how many times I have come to this floor and tried to drill that into the way we think. But instead, the scam here is we talk about: Well, you are going to get subsidized.

But we did nothing to what we pay. The difference is we just borrow money—that is, the Federal Government—and pay for it that way.

Even a 100 percent tax rate on small businesses, upper-class families—so a 100 percent tax rate and you are taking every single dollar, you can't even come close to balancing the budget and balancing it long term. The numbers are this ugly.

□ 1730

When you take a look, it is not that hard. The 2050 number, if you take every dime even of folks who make \$1 million or \$500,000, if you take every dime, you don't get close. The numbers are this ugly. The share of Federal tax revenue spent on interest in the national debt is projected to surge.

But here is the number that terrifies me: If we move up 2 points—2 points—functionally at the 2050, 2051 mark, 100 percent of revenues—100 percent of revenues—in that 30-year budget window, move up 2 points from where we are right now, our baseline, 100 percent of tax revenues will be just covering the interest costs.

So is anyone familiar with a book that was called "The Black Swan"? Okay, Taleb also wrote another book. And I understand, there are economists out there, Gilder and others, who disagree with parts of the model. But there was one concept of making yourself fragile. A simple example is you go to the airport 10 times; you know if you leave at exactly this moment you can get to the airport exactly as your flight is getting ready to board; and the first time there is a car accident, you miss your flight. We are doing that type of thing to our entire country, to my 6-year-old daughter, and to anyone else out there.

We are living on a razor's edge.

Madam Speaker, you saw that last slide, 2 points moving back to what would be closer to normality interest-rate wise. In the 30-year budget window, 100 percent of revenues, receipts if you want to use the technical term, will go just to cover the interest.

Madam Speaker, do you understand how fragile we have made the economics of this country?

And then the debate here is how to spend more money. I understand money gets you reelected, and promising things gets you reelected. It gets nice contributions, and it is absolutely perverse when you think about where we are at.

So now let's talk about the budget gimmicks. Many of you are going to refer to this as the Build Back Better plan. In our office we are calling it the social spending plan because that is what it is. It is laced with gimmicks. It is going to be fascinating come Friday to see how CBO ultimately scores these. I'm a little disappointed on what we have seen from the Joint Committee on Taxation and some of the others. I don't think we are getting actual quality, dynamic scoring, but that is hard. It takes time. You have to lay it out, break it apart, and try to understand what the economic effects are.

But you walk through the gimmicks, Madam Speaker, and a simple example is the White House has estimated \$400 billion in some of the Joint Committee on Taxation scores from IRS collecting more money. But CBO came out and said: No, it is not \$400 billion; it is 120.

Then you start to realize, Madam Speaker, the debates you are hearing on the floor here are completely stacked with absolutely fraudulent numbers.

I remember how hard—when we did tax reform—we had to work to justify dynamic scoring and make the math as honest as possible to work, and it was our brothers and sisters on the left who absolutely were insistent. Today they would never hold themselves to the same standard that they demanded from us just a couple of years ago.

So let's walk through an example of one of the absolute frauds that the left is using. So President Trump had a drug rebate. This is a little geeky, but it is important to understand. Ultimately, the rebate was going to be to the consumer. So you are on Medicare, you are in line at the pharmacy, the rebate that would have gone into the backside of the provider, the acquirer, think of it as the wholesaler of the pharmaceutical, that rebate now comes to you at the counter. It means the consumer would get the value, but it would mean the costs of pharmaceuticals would go up for government because the government isn't ultimately getting that value.

So here are sort of the steps of the Trump administration's rebate rule: it was estimated to cost about \$150 billion over 10 years.

Speaker PELOSI said: It will never happen.

Democratic leadership here said: It will never happen.

Democrat leadership in the Senate said: Unacceptable, it will never happen.

This was never, ever, ever, ever going to happen.

This was the whole system of how the consumer would have gotten the benefit of those rebates, but it would have cost the Federal Government \$150 billion over 10 years, but it was never going to happen unless, of course, you are a Democrat looking for money to spend on their social entitlement bill, all of a sudden saying: Hey, this is never going to happen, but we can score it in, so we are going to use it.

It is just another gimmick, it is a con, and it is a fraud. If we were doing this, we would be ashamed of ourselves and should be. But this is actually the scam that now is Democrat leadership.

So you take a look at the budget gimmicks that are already built into here, Madam Speaker, and you start to realize the left's social spending bill is like a house of cards. Now, they may get some scoring. Like the last one I was just showing you, Madam Speaker, CBO will give them that \$150 billion. There will be a nice little footnote saying that this was never really going to become policy but because it was a proposal and they are canceling the proposal, we are going to give them the 150 or maybe \$145 billion worth of credit.

But the public needs to understand those trillions and trillions and trillions—\$112 trillion in the baseline as it is right now in 29 budget years—that is how you get there.

The left will say: This is paid for.

No. It is not. And they know that. They are not dumb. They are manipulative, but they are not dumb. When you start to look at just the games being done, Madam Speaker, and then the spending—and that is the other thing we are going to work through here is how much of this spending do they really plan to cancel in year 2?

So, Madam Speaker, you are seeing some spending scoring saying that we estimate this is \$1¼ trillion, wink, wink, nod, nod, but when it becomes a 10-year instead of disappearing in the second year, you are 4½ plus trillion dollars of new obligations.

Look up and down the different budget gimmicks. One of the reasons I did this slide is because it is a little more of an economically difficult concept. So you actually have in there an adjusted gross income surcharge on the top income earners.

Madam Speaker, you know the Democrats' proposal is to do a very similar thing on corporations. The alternative minimum tax that is also being put on corporations; we are just now starting to model how much it actually will slow down the economy.

Here is why: You have this thing we call expensing. It was one of the great economic drivers particularly in 2018 and 2019. Do you remember we far exceeded revenue projections, Madam

Speaker, income inequality truly shrank, poverty shrank, and food insecurity shrank? The poor got dramatically less poor. They were 2 amazing years. It is a great model to demonstrate what supply-side economics really does.

But a lot of the economic expansion was because of something called expensing. So you buy a piece of equipment, it makes your company more productive, and you are able to pay people more. It moves technology and moves business production forward into the next century.

If you do a minimum alternative tax at a corporate level, then you no longer get the economic value of that expensing. I know this is really geeky, but it is really important to understand. We are just now starting to model this thing saying: Oh, heavens, so the Democrats are doing the wink, wink, nod, nod con of they are not taking away the expensing which is the primary driver that we saw in productivity from the last 2 years since tax reform, but by doing this alternative minimum tax calculation, you don't get the value of that depreciation. All of a sudden, the investment in capital products—capital goods and capital equipment—will disappear. It is another example of a really bad understanding of the most basic economics.

I can understand why the left wants to do this. It is the number of new IRS agents, the number of agencies that will have potentially hundreds of thousands of new employees. Remember, one of the models was 80,000 new IRS employees. Well, okay, maybe it makes sense if I was on the Democrat side or I represented northern Virginia or areas like that where I have lots of unionized government-working constituents. But we need to be honest about that, the build back better, the social spending bill on the left, massively increases the bureaucracy.

You start to look at the hundreds of millions that are being put in to expand the size of the national bureaucracy. It is not like we are doing the leap of technology saying that with the investment it is going to make society more productive. It is like our argument of air quality and environmental quality, using technology is the way to make us healthier. Instead, the left designs it in ways where there are new armies of public employees.

I have to congratulate the left. Madam Speaker, you are going to see some slides here. We are going to be number one. Yes. The United States will be absolutely number one in the highest tax rates on income in the entire industrialized world.

But we are starting to see if you are a resident of California, you are going to be about 64.7 percent for top income earners and high income earners. Fine.

If you are in Arizona you are going to be at 55.9.

New York gets the prize. They are going to be over 66 percent for top income earners when you do the Federal, the surcharges, State, and local taxes.

Don't we have lots of data already in the economic literature of what happens when we start to hit these confiscatory levels of tax on income?

What do people do?

You start to realize saying, okay, I can work and get this tax rate, or I can take my resources and put them in other types of things—municipal bonds, other types of things—and reap the rewards from that because if more than half of the upper income now goes to government, then we have just created an incentive not to invest and not to take risks but just take the money, put it in safe places, and don't play anymore.

I am frustrated because I know the Tax Foundation has been trying to model the taxes but we don't have good data yet on what does this mean in future GDP growth.

Back to the very first board we held up: our society is heading towards a debt cliff. The baseline as it is today from CBO in 29 budget years, we are at \$112 trillion in borrowed money in today's dollars, and that is where policy is today.

When you start to do this, and economic growth slows, then you functionally bring the financial apocalypse a lot sooner.

So let's actually also talk through a couple other duplicities that are in the Democrats' build back better social spending bill. They sure do like rich people.

Two-thirds of the millionaires get a tax cut under the build back better, and if we take the folks getting over \$1 million, 66 percent of them actually benefit. And this is one of the things we have come to the floor now for almost a year talking about instead of raising taxes—and the rhetoric that we hear over and over from the left where the rich need to pay their fair share—maybe we should just stop subsidizing them.

We have come to the floor over and over and shown that almost \$1.4 trillion of subsidies go to the very top, top, top income earners. If you stop the subsidy, Madam Speaker, then you don't create the economic distortions.

So this is the great scam: Democrats are saying, We are going to raise the taxes, these surcharges, but then we are going to turn around, and as long as these rich people do what we ask them to do—they buy the right type of solar panels, the right type of electric car—then we are going to turn around and hand them cash.

□ 1745

Now that is something that the vast majority of Americans will never be able to afford, but you will be happy to know that the Democrats' plan is to subsidize the rich. And it gets even darker.

So now the Democrats are going to put in SALT, State and Local Tax deduction. And the great thing is, if you make \$1 million a year, it looks like you are going to get the vast majority,

you are going to get the highest amount of this money. But for the population that is \$400,000 and up, they get the majority of the SALT. It is, once again, the Democrats subsidizing the rich and the really rich.

And for everyone else who is functionally making \$150,000 and less, you don't get anything. You don't get any value here. How can this be?

I mean, am I living in a parallel universe where the rhetoric from the left is, tax rich people; wink, wink, nod, nod. Not only do we subsidize them when they buy the things we want them to buy; but then we are going to give them additional tax benefits. We are going to make additional things they spend money on deductible; and the rest of the population just be screwed.

I grabbed this one, it substantially basically makes some other points. So think of this: In the Democrats' social spending bill, best as I can identify it, there is about \$100 billion to finance amnesty. Okay. So it functionally gives a 5-year visa to millions of folks who are here undocumented illegally.

But you remember our earlier discussion? What are the two things you do to create economic violence to the working poor? Inflation. Well, too many—remember our elementary school economics class? Too many dollars chasing too few goods.

So the left put out lots and lots and lots of money to people's bank accounts because that is great politics; instead of using those resources to say we are going to make our society more efficient, more clean, more productive. And that productivity means you can pay people more, and you have a society that grows, and then maybe we can take on our debt problem.

But we did it just backwards. So now you get to see what Keynesian economics looks like. And are you enjoying the inflation yet? Because it looks like it is going to continue to pop. And then, flooding society with lots of other low-skilled workers.

Okay. Well, it will be interesting to see how long it is before the left actually has to come in here and say we need to do additional subsidies to the working poor because we stuck it to them.

And look; if anyone has a question, we have multiple papers, university peer-reviewed papers talking about how the Democrats' plan actually will make the poor poorer by the end of the decade. University of Chicago, four Ph.D. economists published a paper a couple of weeks ago showing that the lowest quartile of income—and I despise the term quartiles, but that is what economists use—will be poorer at the end of the decade.

Now, a lot of that is because of the Democrats' unwillingness to attach the benefits to learning job skills, to actually working. They have severed those. You would have thought we learned that during the Clinton years, when you rewarded work, rewarded going

and gaining job skills—we are going back to the bad old days of saying, if you want to just not work, you will be happy. As long as you vote for the right party, we are going to send you a check.

Does anyone see the cruelty here?

Now, there are some things in this spending that look—endangered plants, okay, it is \$4.9 million. Desert fish, okay, \$4.9 million. Fresh water mussels, which are actually a real problem, but it is \$19 million. And everyone understands the difference between \$1 million and billions.

So \$100 billion for amnesty, but \$19 million for functionally—we will call it invasive species and protecting others. It is like the drop of a bucket in an ocean wave. But it gives you a sense where—so the Democrats get a nice talking point, but the math is absolutely perverse.

Ultimately, over the next decade, you have got to deal with this one way or the other. Either what the left is doing is when—you are going to see the scoring this Friday of how many programs saying, well, we are going to spend all this money on a transfer payment, European style transfer payment, but it is only for 2 years; wink, wink, nod, nod. A future Congress won't continue it.

You all remember the fraud of the last time we had—Speaker PELOSI a decade ago—and there were multiple spending bills, where the way they fit into something called PAYGO is, we are going to spend this much, this much, but on the fifth year we are going to just pretend the program no longer spends any money.

Well, this is now the more modern version of that fraud that was committed financially, budgetarily, is we are going to spend the money for a year or two, and then we are going to pretend it stops; and that way we hit certain budget boxes to meet the reconciliation; wink, wink, nod, nod. Will the voters be paying attention to it?

But let's say they are honest. It is not likely, but let's say that honestly that is not the scam; that they fully intend to spend all this money, get themselves through the next election, and then stop the spending.

Well, in that case, the taxes are permanent because the taxes don't expire, even though, what we can tell best from the revenues, they don't come close to covering all the spending.

And if the spending is made permanent, the social entitlement transfers, over the 10 years, this is trillions and trillions of dollars out of balance.

I understand—and, look, this is one of my great sins, and I think a lot of us on the conservative side, we sound like accountants on steroids.

You know, we come and talk about GDP and workforce, labor force participation. But the fact of the matter is, if you care for people, if you believe growth, economic growth is moral; that it provides opportunities; that that is how you save for retirement;

that is how you help your child go to college; that is how you have a better house, a better life; it is the opportunities that growth creates. So when you see someone like me come behind the microphone and talk about GDP and the benefits it brings, it is a number. It is classical economics. It is also that poor family that is trying to be less poor.

And the tax foundation has done a bunch of modeling that makes it pretty darn clear that the left social spending bill is going to make our entire society poorer. When you start to look at these numbers over the decade, and at the end of decade, we won't have grown as much.

We are going to be missing—I mean, in a decade, we are missing a half a trillion dollars of economic growth, of GDP.

You remember our very first board? What is—for my little girl, for everyone else out there, this is what wipes us out as a society. This is the thing that this body is terrified to talk about. And this is already the baseline.

The baseline from CBO already says, in 29 budget years, we are \$112 trillion of borrowed money, and that is assuming really stable interest rates. That is assuming no more wars. It is assuming no more major recessions.

We were doing one attempt to try to calculate these numbers. So the Penn Wharton model, that was published actually today, where they were trying to figure out how much more it would add to the debt. So the Penn Wharton model said, if the spending is continued, which is the obvious thing that is going to happen, it adds 24.4 percent to the debt. Okay. Now we didn't have enough time to break through all their tables, and we will work through that.

But just off the top of your head, \$112 trillion, if you added 24.4 percent on it, that is close to \$140 trillion of borrowed money; 139 something.

You have got to understand, this is what the left is leading us to, instead of coming in and saying, we are going to protect Medicare by investing in things that cure.

Remember, this Medicare dollar? You know, \$77 trillion plus of borrowing in the next 29 years, just to cover the Medicare portion shortfall? 31 percent of that is just diabetes.

You could have a connection here between the left and the right saying, we are going to do an operation warp speed and go at diabetes because it turns out by curing the misery you also have a major effect on the debt. That is creativity, that is being rational. Instead of trying to buy your next election, and pretending to finance it with a whole bunch of gimmicks that don't really create revenues; that are going to create borrowed money.

And it is not CBO, it is not me. It is the outside groups that play it straight. Tell Penn Wharton and others that they are lying, because they have done the—I think they underscore economic growth on some things.

But the fact of the matter is, if the left is about to pass a piece of legislation at the end of this week that looks like it is likely to add another 24.4 percent to the debt, does anyone see the level of immorality in wiping out economic growth and the opportunity?

And we had a couple of years there where it was working. The fact of the matter is 2018, 2019 were Goldilocks, and it was done because we invested in the things that create opportunity and growth, instead of the model right now, where the left is going to invest in things that functionally slow economic growth down; make individuals dependent on the Federal Government; disincentivize participating in the economy?

And if any of you have ever read any of your textbooks from what the world looked like in the 70s, where the last time the left did something very similar to this, the societal breakdowns, the inflation, the misery. Once again, we are about to see the financing of misery instead of investing in the things that actually would create opportunity and growth. We are better than this.

I know it would take someone on the Democrats' side. They would have to stand up to their base and explain basic economics. But there is a path that works. And if you give a darn about the poor, the working poor, the middle class, ultimately, the data says, at the end of the decade if the left passes their Build Back Better social entitlement spending bill, they are going to be poorer. That is what we are about to do to this country, and this place should be ashamed.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1800

MOST EXPENSIVE THANKSGIVING IN HISTORY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah (Mr. OWENS) for 30 minutes.

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, I am proud to be here today with the Utah House delegation to say a few words ahead of the Thanksgiving season to those we are so fortunate to represent here in Washington. We all agree that it is a blessing, as a team, to represent the great State of Utah.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. STEWART), my friend from Utah's Second District.

Mr. STEWART. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. OWENS, my friend, for organizing this event and for his interest in something that I think every American shares.

I have a young family. I have six kids. Many of them are just young couples. They are starting their careers; they are starting their families; and they are starting to make their way in the world and their mark on life.

If you are a young family, you know what it is like to go to the grocery store and to pay more every week than you paid the week before. You know what it is like to fill up your pickup and have it cost more every week than you paid the week before.

The reason you are driving a pickup is because you are a working American. You are not driving a big pickup around the city. You are driving a big pickup because that is what you use to work, whether you work on farming and ranching, like I did when I was young, or whether you are working construction, or whether you are working and going down to the docks. Those are the folks who are paying the price.

If you are wealthy, if you are affluent, if you don't go shopping but have someone who shops for you, if you don't fill up your vehicle yourself because you have someone who fills up the vehicle for you and then picks you up, you may not realize what a painful thing this is for Americans. But the vast majority of Americans do their own shopping. The vast majority of Americans struggle paycheck to paycheck. The vast majority of Americans know what a painful experience we find ourselves in now.

After only 10 months of President Biden, Americans are facing the worst inflation they have seen in 31 years. Democrats keep saying these prices are only temporary.

We are told that all the time. We have been told that by the Secretary of the Treasury. We have been told that by the Chairman of the Fed. We have been told that by the President. And they continue to say that.

But the truth is that \$4 trillion in spending, when he says it is zero dollars that it will cost, the American people aren't stupid, and they know that is not true. They know inflation when they see it.

The consequences of this President's tax and spend agenda hits Americans, as I have already said, in their everyday lives. It hits Americans when the price of heating jumps from \$574 to \$746, which is what the Energy Information Administration predicts it will cost the average house this winter.

It is a tough choice when you have some people who say: Hey, we would like to have it warm. We would like for our little children to be comfortable. But we want to be able to buy the food that we want for them, other than just macaroni and cheese.

Some people are left with that decision.

It hits Americans at their Thanksgiving table. As we have said over and over again, this will be the most expensive Thanksgiving in American history, when frozen turkeys cost an average of 22 percent more than they did just last year.

What does the President do to alleviate some of this financial strain and the pressure that so many American families are feeling? Unfortunately, he does the same thing again and the

same thing more, the very same policies that put us in the hole.

Here is the reality. There is no political spin for any Democrat. Americans will not be reassured by empty promises from those who don't see inflation coming in the first place, and President Biden cannot wish away this cost-of-living crisis, no matter how much he would like to do that.

From day one in office, President Biden's mission was clear. He wants the American people to rely on the government from cradle to grave.

To sell his agenda, he is telling Americans that more taxing, more spending, and more mandating will solve the financial problems. But this is just economic nonsense; it is an economic fairy tale; and this one has a scary ending, the kind that only George Orwell could imagine.

But because it is Thanksgiving, we can be thankful that we know how to solve these problems. If we didn't know how to solve them, it would be much more worrying, much more stressful. But the truth is, we know how to solve them. Congress simply needs to start expanding that opportunity, not shrinking it with mandate after mandate. Congress needs to start empowering the people, not expanding bureaucracy with tax after tax. Individual liberty must always triumph over government dependence.

If President Biden cannot accept that reality, we can expect more of what we have seen and felt over the last 10 months. If he can't understand that people, not the government, are the key to our success, American culture, American businesses, and American families will reap the results.

I sincerely hope that he will. I sincerely hope the President will look at the pain the American people are feeling and will recognize the responsibility he has not to make it worse, not to keep doing the same thing and just do it harder and faster, not to do the same thing and just excuse it away, but to try to do something different. Until then, I am afraid we will see much of the same.

I think I speak not only for Republicans on this, but many independents and many Democrats feel the same way. We hear from them when we go back home as well.

I thank Mr. OWENS for organizing this on this incredibly important subject. It is an honor to be with him.

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CURTIS), my friend from Utah's Third District.

Mr. CURTIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my voice with my Utah colleagues, vocalizing our great concern about the runaway inflation impacting Americans across the country.

I remember the inflation of the 1970s. When I bought my first home, we assumed a loan at 12 percent interest and thought that that was a bargain at the time. I remember what it is like to lose 15 percent of the value of a savings account in just 1 year.

I saw firsthand the devastation to our senior citizens and those on a fixed income with runaway inflation.

Here we are, 40 years later, pretending that trillions of dollars of wasted government spending is okay and that it won't impact inflation.

Madam Speaker, in the simplest terms, inflation is financially handcuffing the American people and their families, which is further evidenced by the fact that the Consumer Price Index is now showing the highest level in over 30 years. That is not okay.

The White House tells us not to worry about inflation; it is all under control. I think Utahns know better. They see the gas prices, and they see the difference they pay at the grocery stores.

Utahns, specifically, have seen their gas prices rise by over 70 percent this last year. What is the response from Washington, D.C.? We can fix this. All we need to do is spend trillions of dollars more.

Seriously? Employers can't find employees to do the work, and the President touts his \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill as job-creating.

We also know that inflation is an unlegislated tax on hardworking Americans, most notably some of our most vulnerable communities, like low-income communities and rural communities with less access to goods and services.

But instead of focusing on finding ways to address critical supply chain shortages, to lower our energy costs through policies designed to generate more independence on energy, and to address the growing behavioral healthcare crisis, we are doing just the opposite. We shut down U.S. pipelines and then ask our enemies to produce more dirty oil.

Here are the facts: 40 percent of all the money printed in the history of this country was printed in the last 20 months. Forty percent of all the money printed in the history of this country was printed in the last 20 months.

Congress has already authorized, just this year alone, \$3 trillion of additional spending in addition to our normal spending, and we are about to spend another \$2 trillion.

It is hard to get your arms around what is a trillion dollars. Let me put this in perspective. This \$5 trillion of spending is approximately \$25,000 for every man, woman, and child in the United States. It gets worse. Thirty years from now, unless we pay that money back—and I don't think anybody believes we will have paid it back—that is now three-quarters of a million dollars for every man, woman, and child just in extra spending this year. That is not okay.

It is simply time to stop the bleeding and time to earnestly focus on bipartisan solutions that will address the growing needs of the American people.

We literally cannot afford to play partisan politics at the expense of our constituents and, more importantly,

our children and grandchildren and our future generations.

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MOORE), my friend from Utah's First District.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Madam Speaker, it is very much an honor to share the podium with my colleagues from Utah. Utah is a very special, very unique place.

At this time of Thanksgiving, I would like to focus on what Utah really is. We often get lauded as having the lowest unemployment in the country and the strongest economy in the country, or as the fastest growing State in the country. What Utah is, is the most philanthropic State in the country. It shares more volunteer hours and dollars than any other State. That is the type of stuff that our delegation and Members of Congress, the community that we serve, are really proud of. We reflect on that often, particularly during this time of year.

We are more than a week away from Thanksgiving Day. Like Utahns across the State, my family—and I have three little boys, a fourth boy on the way, and an amazing wife who deals with a lot during this crazy time of my time in Washington. We look forward to this annual opportunity to come together, enjoy each other's company, and give thanks for all of our many blessings.

Turkey and stuffing are staples, but each Thanksgiving Day looks a little different from the last. That is okay. Unfortunately, this year's Thanksgiving is going to be much more difficult than others.

Americans are bracing for this year's turkey tax, which we expect to be the most expensive in modern history as inflation rates hit their highest level in decades.

My colleagues from Utah can talk about this a little bit better than I can because they are a little bit older than I am, but they talk about how this hasn't been this high in the last 40 years. That is how old I am.

I don't want to experience this type of inflation. I haven't had to yet, and I am very concerned about what we are going to have to experience.

That was not a cut at their age.

According to the Department of Labor, the Consumer Price Index for October was 6.2 percent, the highest in over three decades. This high rate means that, compared to last year, home heating will be 50 percent more expensive, a gallon of gas will be 61 percent more expensive, and the cost of groceries will be 5.4 percent more expensive. Beef is 20 percent higher; pork is 14 percent higher; and the cost of used cars is 26 percent higher.

This is data. This is directly related to policy decisions here in Washington.

As Utahns get ready to celebrate Thanksgiving and find reprieve from this challenging past year-and-a-half, inflation is threatening to stifle this entire time of year.

In fact, real wages have decreased in 7 of President Biden's first 9 months in

office. As President Biden rushes to spend trillions more, as he is doing now, to spend trillions more as of this week, economic pressure will only continue to drive everyday costs up and incomes down.

The Wall Street Journal editorial board said: "The current burst of inflation isn't an accident. . . . This is the result of reckless policy." This is simply incompetence.

CNN noted President Biden's \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan fueled inflation by sparking demand that it could not keep pace with.

Even The Washington Post editorial board—I did not expect to ever be using sort of liberal media outlets to defend some of my points when I came to the House floor. But The Washington Post says that you cannot ignore that the American Rescue Plan bears some of this blame.

□ 1815

We cannot simply spend more. We have to stop President Biden's tax-and-spend monstrosity.

All of this comes as the administration botched a military exit from Afghanistan, created a sustained crisis at the border, and has failed to address a looming debt crisis.

With this as the backdrop, Thanksgiving may feel uniquely challenging. Yet, through the most difficult times in our Nation's history, Thanksgiving Day has been a celebration when communities come together to give thanks for life's great blessings.

Following the Battle of Gettysburg in October of 1863, President Lincoln proclaimed Thanksgiving to be a national holiday to "heal the wounds of the Nation."

As our Nation experiences great challenges, I can't think of a better holiday to observe this coming week.

My colleagues and I in the Utah delegation are working every day to carve a more prosperous path forward for our State and communities. There is hope on the horizon.

Earlier this month, Democrats and Republicans in this House came together to pass the Fiscal State of the Nation Resolution, which I cosponsored. If agreed to in the Senate, this resolution will mandate the U.S. Comptroller General conduct an annual joint session before the members of the House and Senate Budget Committees to provide a report on the fiscal health of our Nation.

This is a huge, important time to have done something like that after what we have seen over the last year. This expertise would provide our leaders with the information they need to correct our course and back away from our patterns of destructive spending.

Back home, I have also convened a debt and deficit task force, which has provided me an opportunity to work with local leaders to begin crafting innovative solutions to our Nation's debt crisis.

My colleagues from Utah and I genuinely hope to help those in our home

State find more blessings in the days, months, and years ahead. As we work toward those brighter days, let us reflect and be grateful for the good moments we have had this year.

Though our year has been filled with difficulty, it has also been filled with, in the words of Lincoln, "the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies."

Today, I am back in Washington with my colleagues to continue the important work we do on behalf of Utahns. I look forward to next week when I will join my family and the community in Utah in celebrating this important holiday.

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, before I get started, I just want to say what an honor it is to serve with my friends from Utah. They are remarkable men.

As the holiday season approaches and families across our great Nation gather for these special moments, I am reminded of what brings us all together as Americans: Not our creed, race, or ZIP Code, but the gratitude for one another that lifts us higher and brings out the best in each of us.

I am the father of 6 children and 15 grandchildren. My pride doesn't come from my years on the football field or decades in the corporate world. It comes from the joy of watching them grow up and start families of their own. I am so deeply thankful for them and the entire Owens family.

To my fellow Utahns: I am thankful to call Utah's 4th District my home. It is the honor of a lifetime to represent our State. I am constantly inspired by the resiliency of our communities.

We have faced a couple of very difficult years. The COVID-19 pandemic kept us from our friends, families, and loved ones. Disruptions from work, school, and worship made everyday life very different. There are empty seats at the table this year. We pray for comfort and healing for those families as they navigate this time of grief.

With the current economic crisis at home, rising prices at the gas station, grocery store, and everywhere in between, more and more Utah families are worried about losing a job, keeping the doors of their small business open, paying their mortgage, and making ends meet.

Even during the toughest of times, I know the spirit of Utahns. I have seen how families across our State have helped each other through dark times toward better and brighter days.

I am wishing all Utahns good health, especially the men and women who have put on the uniform to serve in our great State, across the country, and abroad. They make the world and our country a safer place.

Especially during the holidays, I think Norman Rockwell's Four Freedoms are very appropriate: The Freedom of Speech, the Freedom to Worship, the Freedom From Want, and the Freedom From Fear. This is the American way. This is the American Dream. As Americans, we hold these freedoms incredibly dear and commit to protect them for future generations.

It is within our DNA to confront our crises and weather rough storms to leave our country a little bit better than we found it for our children and our children's children.

This season of thanksgiving, I hope that we can continue to support one another and unite in our shared gratitude. Despite our daily struggles, we have so much to be thankful for. I pray that Utahns across our beautiful State will continue to be blessed this holiday season.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the senior member of our delegation, CHRIS STEWART.

Mr. STEWART. Madam Speaker, what an honor it is to be here with my friends, people that I have tremendous respect for, colleagues, people who love their country and want to serve their country.

Several of them have said something that I think is worth emphasizing, and that is, for example, when Mr. CURTIS talks about 40 percent of the money that was printed in the history of this country was printed in the last several months, I am not sure that that is easy to convey to people how important that is.

We talk about a million dollars or a billion dollars or now a trillion dollars, and I am not sure we have an understanding, again, what those numbers even mean. I think a lot of times people think of a trillion dollars, well, it sounds like a lot of money. Is that like double a billion or what is a trillion?

I think I found a really good way to illustrate it and for us to visualize what it means when we are printing this kind of money.

Let me start with this: A million seconds is 11 days. A billion seconds is 31 years. A trillion seconds is 31,000 years. Think about that. 11 days to 31 years to 31,000 years. The people watching at home can't see this enormous Chamber we are in but imagine that I stretched a string from this wall to this wall, and let's say that over here is zero, and then I ask them to go touch 11 days, they would go touch and they would be nearly touching the wall. But then if I said touch 31 years, if this one over here is 31,000 years, they would still nearly be touching the wall, and all the rest of that distance is a trillion. I think that gives us a sense and gives us a way to visualize when we talk about spending trillions of dollars, it is magnitudes more than billions. It is an unimaginable number, like Mr. CURTIS said, the percentage of that that has been created in the last few months.

Since COVID hit, we spent about \$2 trillion on the COVID 1 relief package; we spent about the same, \$1.9 trillion, on the second COVID relief package. This President suggested a budget that takes us from about \$4.8 trillion a year to \$6.3 trillion. We just spent \$1.2 trillion on infrastructure. This government has spent, taken together, more than \$11 trillion in a matter of months. That should scare the life out of every American.

People say, Well, you are kicking the can of debt down the road to our kids or grandkids. That is nonsense. We will never get to our grandkids if we spend trillions of dollars in a matter of months. We will never get to our kids if we spend \$11 trillion in 18 months.

This problem will correct itself. It will correct itself in a painful way and in not a matter of generations, a matter of years, if we don't try to fix it now.

If you think inflation is because of bottlenecks and supply chains, that was part of it. But the vast majority of this is explained by one thing: The Federal Government spending trillions of dollars. And the American people pay the very unfortunate, the very painful price.

Once again, I thank Mr. OWENS for the honor to be with him tonight.

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

BUILD BACK BETTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I would like to use this time to speak for a half hour on a variety of issues, primarily the Build Back Better bill.

But first, I would like to address today National Apprenticeship Week. Apprenticeships are a very good way to begin your working career. Rather than working your way into debt as you go to school, you are making money while you go to school, and there is no better preparation for a job than doing the job itself.

Be it in construction, be it in manufacturing, be it in healthcare, there is a strong need in America for skills, and apprenticeship is a way to get those skills and ensure that you hit the ground running and get a good-paying job immediately.

I strongly encourage all Americans, particularly young Americans, who are looking for a job to look at apprenticeship and encourage administrators of secondary schools to present apprenticeships as options for young people.

Now I would like to address the Build Back Better bill. A lot has been written and talked about the Build Back Better bill from this very microphone, and a lot has been focused on the additional taxes that will be needed to pay for it and the overall level of spending resulting in more inflation.

All that is true, but I think the most dangerous thing about the bill is what the money is being spent for. I am going to address five areas in general tonight for the American public to remember.

Right now, I think the biggest problem in America deals with illegal immigration. The numbers are well known. In July, a year ago, 8,000 people came into this country. This July it was 105,000 people. This October we hit

the all-time high number of people processed for any October at the southern border.

The drug gangs are making lots of money down there. Some people tell me the drug gangs are making more money bringing people in the country than they did selling drugs. Seven years ago, when I first got this job, 45,000 Americans a year were dying of illegal drug overdoses. We are now at 93,000, more than double.

When I first got here, we talked about the number of people dying of illegal drug overdoses approaching the number of soldiers who died in Vietnam. Now we are approaching twice the number of soldiers who died in Vietnam.

We talk about the humanitarian mess down there. In July, 15,000 minors were left alone and coming into the country. Last year we hit another all-time record, 557 deaths of people trying to get in the country, be it from dehydrating in the desert, drowning in the Rio Grande, or falling off the wall.

What are we doing with this crisis in this bill? What vision do they have for America? First of all, they are going to take about 7 million people who have snuck into the country illegally in the past and give them amnesty. In addition to the unfairness of having some people skip ahead of other people, that is an invitation to bring still more people into the country.

Secondly, they are going to make it more difficult to kick people out of the country. More parole for people with sex offenses, people with firearm offenses, and this parole is mandatory. It is not something that can be revoked at the discretion of DHS.

In this bill, as a further inducement to come here, we are going to give away free Pell grants, which is to say free college scholarships to people coming here illegally. Hard as it is to believe, while Americans are spending \$20 thousand, \$30 thousand, \$40 thousand, \$50,000 in debt for a college diploma, in the Build Back Better bill, we are going to give away free college to people who are here illegally.

Furthermore, in this bill, a bill spending trillions of dollars, about the only thing they are not spending more money on is the Border Patrol. We all know that as more children come here, the Border Patrol has to spend more time on paperwork caring for children, so they need more people at the border. But as the border is left open, the one thing the Democrat Party sadly feels is not a priority is more Border Patrol agents.

So again, to repeat, in the Build Back Better bill, 7 million more people given amnesty, requiring more parole for people who have committed serious crimes so that they are not kicked out of the country, and free Pell grants, which fits nicely with the free healthcare we give away as well.

I want to mention that free healthcare. The average American is sitting there worrying about their de-

ductible, should we go to the doctor, should we not? What does the majority party want to do? Well, we have got to give illegals free healthcare. It is the only fair thing to do.

□ 1830

The second big problem I think in this country is what I will call a growing number of Americans adapting to the welfare lifestyle.

Beginning in the 1960s, Lyndon Johnson—in my opinion, the worst President in this country until this time—started a massive welfare state, the result of which was causing people to work less and to make sure they didn't get married because it was hard to take advantage of the welfare system if you were married. In other words, the goal was to discourage marriage, discourage work.

Since that time, the number of people with particularly a father in the family has decreased considerably since the early sixties in response to the Great Society, which discouraged—gave financial inducements not to have a male in the family.

How does the Build Back Better bill deal with the American crisis of the breakdown of the family? Wherever you look, they are putting more money into these programs, the programs that in the past were created for people who didn't make much money and were created for people who weren't married to somebody making money: food share; low-income housing; Medicaid; daycare; earned income tax credit that you had to earn something to get, but if you began to make over \$15,000 or \$20,000, they took that away from you; TANF funds, cash to people also adopting that lifestyle.

So how does the majority party respond to the crisis of a welfare system that discourages work and discourages marriage? We have a larger earned income tax credit, which goes up, again, if you are not married to somebody making a decent income. We are building a lot more low-income housing.

Low-income housing sounds all very good, but I talked to a woman who administers low-income housing. I asked her where people are coming from when they get off the waiting list for low-income housing. Well, a lot of them were living with their parents. Okay. So we are going to take a parent and the child and give them their own apartment, as opposed to having them live with grandparents. Is that a good thing, to move out of mom's house? I don't think so.

We are increasing, or the Biden administration itself, before we get to the bill, increased the amount of food stamps you are getting. We are adding more money in Pell grants, which is, again, a situation if you are a middle-class family and you are working, you aren't eligible for Pell grants. But if you are adopting a certain lifestyle, you are eligible for free college.

So it seems wherever you look, this program is encouraging that lifestyle,

which I think is unfortunate for America.

There are wonderful people who are parents in all sorts of situations, but undeniably in this country we are right now penalizing what I will call the old-fashioned family. And I will point out that it is something, as we started this session and Black Lives Matter weighed in strongly in the last election to who would win, Black Lives Matter itself, their founders, quoted Karl Marx, the fact that they did not believe in the traditional family.

When I look here, it seems that that is a motivating factor behind putting this bill together, and we are going to penalize the traditional family.

The third ideal that flows through the Build Back Better Act is to identify people by racial background. Whether you are talking about money for small businesses, money for teacher preparation, money for community restoration, faculty of colleges of medicine, equity in the Department of Agriculture, or behavioral health, wherever you look, it is not like the programs are for all Americans. The programs are designed for certain Americans.

I was reading some statements by Yuri Bezmenov, who was a Russian defector in the 1960s. At the time, he talked about how the Marxists planned to take over America. He said the majority of money spent in the United States was not spent on subversive or covert activities. It was spent openly to try to demoralize Americans to think that America was not a great country. A quote from him is that "racial and ethnic interrelations is one of the most vulnerable areas for demoralization" of Americans.

Now, one would think his observation as someone who had been around the world is that there is no better place to live than America. But right now, it seems as though the majority party is doing the work that the Soviets wanted to accomplish in the twenties. They want to tell everybody that we ought to have racial animus, that we ought to pit one group against another group.

When you look around the world, one of the reasons nations fail, nations based on elections, is that those elections become contests between ethnic groups.

I never felt Canada was quite as successful as America because, to a degree, their elections pitted the French speakers against the English speakers. You look at elections in the Middle East, and it is the Sunnis against the Shiites. You look at elections in Africa, and it is one tribe against another tribe.

In other words, when they go to the polls, they don't say what is the appropriate money to spend on national defense or what is our roads policy or what should be appropriate criminal justice policy or the length of jail sentences. No, in these countries that fail, the elections are a contest of one ethnic group against another.

Not surprisingly, therefore, the people who want America to fail would set

up programs designed to benefit one group against the other.

We have seen this earlier this session when we had a program forgiving agriculture debts only for so-called people of color. We also saw it earlier this session when we had a program that ran out of money for restaurateurs, and the people at the bottom of the list were people who happened to be White.

A guy came up to me in my district who would have gotten, he claims, tens of thousands of dollars if he were of a different ethnic background. He wondered why he was left behind. Well, it is because we have a party here that likes to set one group against another group.

That is the third way or the third vision that the majority party has for America. They want to pit one group against the other. They want people to always view themselves rather than as an American. They want to view themselves as a Hispanic American or an Asian American or an African American.

The fourth way they want to change America in this bill, which also has not been talked about enough, is they want to provide universal preschool for 3- and 4-year-olds. Not only that, they want to make sure that the preschools not be run by religious entities—kind of letting the cat out of the bag. They want to make sure that, insofar as the 3- and 4-year-olds were taught anything, it not be any religious values.

Again, in America, the raising of the children is supposed to be something done by the parents. The family is supposed to be preeminent in raising the children. Even in my lifetime, the kindergartners have gone from, at least in Wisconsin, half-day 5-year-old kindergarten to all-day 5-year-old kindergarten to half-day 4-year-old kindergarten.

We now are, in one fell swoop, having the Federal Government, which under the Constitution should have nothing to do with this whatsoever anyway, going all the way down to the government raising the 3- and 4-year-olds.

It is a fundamental change in how much influence the parents have on their children and should be resisted, not resisted for the cost, although the cost is a good reason to resist it, but resisted because it is contrary to the profamily values that our ancestors felt we would have.

The fifth thing that I would like to talk about in this bill is it is apparent the authors want a lot more government surveillance of what people are doing.

President Biden on his own recently proposed monitoring every \$600 transfer. Eventually, he had to back off under public criticism. He is now at \$10,000. But you know if he could get back down to 600 bucks, he would do it in a heartbeat.

Why would the government care if I cashed a \$600 check? I can imagine in today's world why they would care. Maybe they want to monitor me.

Maybe they want to see what type of church I am contributing money to. Maybe they want to see if I am purchasing a firearm. Maybe they want to see if I am giving money to a magazine or giving money to a political party, maybe a magazine espousing politically incorrect beliefs. Maybe they want to look at whether I give any money to a political party that may be out of favor in a few years.

I think it is appalling that anybody would think that it is up to the government to see exactly where I am spending my money. We all know it is going for only bad purposes.

But in this bill, there is another item that hasn't been talked about enough, and that is the majority party wants to hire another 85,000 IRS agents—85,000. I think that is bigger than the average NFL stadium. It is about one of the big college stadiums. I went to the University of Wisconsin. It is about the size of filling up Camp Randall, 85,000 agents.

Of course, what is the purpose of those agents? To go around and monitor people's tax returns, to poke around, look for receipts, make adjustments, make guesses to what your income actually should be. It is clearly a different sort of country if you have 85,000. I wouldn't bring this up if it was 1,000 new agents, but 85,000 new IRS agents.

It sounds like proportionately we are headed, again, toward more of a surveillance state, toward less of a free state. It is the vision, sadly, of the majority party.

I want to review them one more time. I hope the American public, when they look at this bill, does pay attention to the bottom line. There is going to be more inflation, higher costs on the heat bill, no question about it. But regardless of the amount of money, this is a document put together by people who want to encourage illegal immigration all the way down to giving free college to people who come here. It is a party that wants to increase welfare benefits, benefits that are conditioned upon not working too much and certainly not marrying a person with a respectable income. It is a party that wants to further entrench in the American psyche the idea that we have to have different programs based on sex, different programs based on race, and people ought to ask what you are going to give me because I am from this group or what you are going to give me because I am a woman, rather than treating all Americans the same.

It is a bill that is put out with an ideal of the government raising the children instead of the parents, more responsibility for raising the children instead of the parents—again, something that I think would have stunned our forefathers.

Finally, it is a bill put together by people who want to hire a lot of new government employees to monitor what is going on.

I strongly encourage my colleagues to vote against the bill, and I strongly

encourage the American public to familiarize themselves with not only the size of the cost of the bill but the degree to which we are fundamentally changing the way Americans live.

Now, I am going to speak one more time on an issue which I will try to highlight later this week or next week. We have a big COVID problem in this country, and obviously, a lot of money is being spent on vaccines and a lot of money is going to educating people.

It is my opinion that not enough attention has been paid to what we can do to cure COVID if you get COVID, be it vaccinated or unvaccinated.

Months, maybe even a year ago now, some Israeli researchers discovered that fenofibrate, a generic drug that has been used to treat high cholesterol, has tremendous potential success in curing COVID.

More recently, they found 15 people who not only had had COVID but had pneumonia and were on oxygen. I would say if somebody had COVID with pneumonia and was on oxygen, they were in bad shape. They gave them this generic drug, which was freely used for over 40 years in this country for high cholesterol, and 14 of the 15 patients were out of the hospital in 4 days. The other guy was out in 2 weeks. In other words, it sounds like a cure.

I have been trying to get the CDC to push—they put a little money into it—but push more money into this program for research to see whether or not we would have a cure. I have been told by the researchers to this day that the CDC would try a little bit harder, and there is a researcher at the University of Pennsylvania looking into this. But if you really want to say it is successful, you want to find at least 700 subjects or patients. It is hard to find that many people without help from the CDC, particularly if you don't have the big money of the drug companies behind you.

Right now, our researcher at the University of Pennsylvania has about 350 people. He likes to believe that, by the end of March, he will be able to make a definitive statement that fenofibrate would be able to cure COVID for under 50 cents a day.

□ 1845

Wouldn't that be wonderful. And not only does it cure COVID, but if you get COVID it will be much less serious. And right now, long-term COVID, even if you are cured, can result in long-term health problems otherwise.

I strongly encourage my colleagues to encourage the Center for Disease Control to look at COVID, see what they can do about coming up with another 300 or 400 people for a definitive study and then rush—if the study winds up as well as we think it will—rush out and educate these doctors to prescribe it because it is entirely possible it will greatly reduce the number of people with long-term COVID and the number of people dying.

Again, if anybody at the CDC is listening, I hope you take advantage of

this tip. And otherwise, me and my colleagues will sign a letter including a little more action from the CDC, because if we found a cure for COVID we wouldn't have to worry about all the other controversial issues that are so damaging to our country and taking away our freedoms.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 2923.—An act to improve the Fishery Resource Disaster Relief program of the National Marine Fisheries Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced her signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 1511.—An act to amend the Omnibus Crime Control Safe Streets Act of 1968 with respect to payments to certain public safety officers who have become permanently and totally disabled as a result of personal injuries sustained in the line of duty, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(b) of House Resolution 188, the House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow for morning-hour debate and noon for legislative business.

Thereupon (at 6 o'clock and 47 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, November 17, 2021, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF PAYGO LEGISLATION

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 147, the BRAVE Act, as amended, would have no significant effect on the deficit, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, the attached estimate of the costs of H.R. 5603, the Protections for Student Veterans Act, as amended, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

ESTIMATE OF PAY-AS-YOU-GO EFFECTS FOR H.R. 5603

	By fiscal year, in millions of dollars—											
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2022–2026	2022–2031
Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Impact	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-5	-10
Components may not sum to totals because of rounding												

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-2668. A letter from the Director, Office of Financial Management, United States Capitol Police, transmitting the Statement of Disbursements for the U.S. Capitol Police for the period April 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 1910(a); Public Law 109-55, Sec. 1005; (119 Stat. 575) (H. Doc. No. 117—74); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

EC-2669. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2021-0368; Project Identifier MCAI-2021-00204-T; Amendment 39-21705; AD 2021-18-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 21, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2670. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Services B.V. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2021-0698; Project Identifier MCAI-2021-00284-T; Amendment 39-21703; AD 2021-18-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 21, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2671. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Direc-

tives; DG Flugzeugbau GmbH Gliders [Docket No.: FAA-2021-0212; Project Identifier 2018-CE-032-AD; Amendment 39-21715; AD 2021-18-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 21, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2672. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Hélicoptères Guimbal Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2021-0574; Project Identifier 2019-SW-073-AD; Amendment 39-21725; AD 2021-19-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 21, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2673. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; RUAG Aerospace Services GmbH (Type Certificate Previously Held by Dornier Luftfahrt GmbH) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2021-0726; Project Identifier 2019-CE-059-AD; Amendment 39-21724; AD 2021-19-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 21, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2674. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2021-0500; Project Identifier 2017-SW-069-AD; Amendment 39-21720; AD 2021-19-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 21, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2675. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2021-0785; Project Identifier AD-2021-00989-R; Amendment 39-21734; AD 2021-19-16] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 21, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2676. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bell Textron Canada Limited (Type Certificate Previously Held by Bell Helicopter Textron Canada Limited) Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2021-0513; Project Identifier 2018-SW-116-AD; Amendment 39-21717; AD 2021-18-16] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 21, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2677. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Leonardo S.p.a. Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2021-0507; Project Identifier 2018-SW-117-AD; Amendment 39-21712; AD 2021-18-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 21, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2678. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Leonardo S.p.a. Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2021-0724; Project Identifier MCAI-2021-00321-R; Amendment 39-21723; AD 2021-19-

05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 21, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2679. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Leonardo S.p.a. Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2021-0505; Project Identifier 2018-SW-004-AD; Amendment 39-21721; AD 2021-19-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 21, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2680. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; PZL Swidnik S.A. Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2021-0721; Project Identifier MCAI-2020-00616-R; Amendment 39-21713; AD 2021-18-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 21, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2681. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; PZL Swidnik S.A. Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2021-0723; Project Identifier MCAI-2020-00268-R; Amendment 39-21716; AD 2021-18-15] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 21, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2682. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bell Textron Inc. (Type Certificate Previously Held by Bell Helicopter Textron Inc.) Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2021-0454; Project Identifier AD-2021-00006-R; Amendment 39-21740; AD 2021-20-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 21, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2683. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Gulfstream Aerospace LP Airplanes; Correction [Docket No.: FAA-2021-0459; Project Identifier MCAI-2021-00129-T; Amendment 39-21697; AD 2021-17-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 21, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2684. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2021-0515; Project Identifier AD-2021-00191-E; Amendment 39-21739; AD 2021-20-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 21, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2685. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce Deutschland Ltd & Co KG (Type Certificate Previously Held by Rolls-Royce plc) Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2020-0364; Project Identifier MCAI-2019-00119-E] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 21, 2021,

pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2686. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's notice of proposed rulemaking — Airworthiness Directives; Safran Helicopter Engines, S.A. (Type Certificate Previously Held by Turbomeca S.A.) Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2021-0793; Project Identifier MCAI-2021-00372-E] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 21, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2687. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0919; Project Identifier 2019-NE-24-AD; Amendment 39-21714; AD 2021-18-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 21, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2688. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revocation of Class E Airspace: Port Huron, MI [Docket No.: FAA-2021-0235; Airspace Docket No.: 21-AGL-18] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received October 21, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mrs. FISCHBACH:

H.R. 5982. A bill to make revisions in title 51, United States Code, as necessary to keep the title current, and to make technical amendments to improve the United States Code; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARL:

H.R. 5983. A bill to expand the eligibility of veterans for hospital care and medical services provided by non-Department of Veterans Affairs medical providers under the Veterans Choice Program; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. HUFFMAN (for himself, Mr.

THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. KATKO, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. SIREN, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. STRICKLAND, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. RASKIN, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. PINGREE, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, and Mr. STAUBER):

H.R. 5984. A bill to amend part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to provide full Federal funding of such part; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS (for herself and Mr. DONALDS):

H.R. 5985. A bill to establish the Office of the Special Inspector General for State Spending and Waste, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. PAYNE (for himself, Mr.

McGOVERN, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SIREN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. MFUME, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Ms. JACKSON LEE):

H.R. 5986. A bill to improve men's health initiatives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. ROSS (for herself and Ms. MACE):

H.R. 5987. A bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act with respect to the PFAS data call, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. STEWART (for himself, Mr. JACKSON, and Ms. MALLIOTAKIS):

H.R. 5988. A bill to restrict the use of Federal Funds for gain-of-function research in the People's Republic of China; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Science, Space, and Technology, Oversight and Reform, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SWALWELL (for himself, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. EMMER):

H.R. 5989. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a demonstration program to genetic and genomic testing for certain children, to provide for a study by the National Academy of Medicine on the use of such testing to improve health care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TAYLOR (for himself and Mr. GOLDEN):

H.R. 5990. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to carry out a program to recognize high schools and local educational agencies for expanding high-quality dual credit programs; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mrs. KIRKPATRICK (for herself, Mr. BOST, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. KATKO, and Mr. RYAN):

H. Res. 794. A resolution recognizing the heroic efforts of United States and Coalition forces who conducted the airlift in Operation Allies Refuge; to the Committee on Armed Services.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mrs. FISCHBACH:

H.R. 5982.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1

By Mr. CARL:

H.R. 5983.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:

The Congress shall have Power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 5984.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States; Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department of Officer thereof.

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS:

H.R. 5985.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:

The Congress shall have Power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. PAYNE:

H.R. 5986.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ROSS:

H.R. 5987.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. STEWART:

H.R. 5988.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. SWALWELL:

H.R. 5989.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

the 16th amendment

By Mr. TAYLOR:

H.R. 5990.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 55: Ms. BROWN of Ohio.

H.R. 69: Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio.

H.R. 79: Ms. OMAR, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 82: Ms. BROWN of Ohio and Mr. EVANS.

H.R. 151: Mr. CORREA, Mr. NORCROSS, Mrs.

KIRKPATRICK, and Mrs. TRAHAN.

H.R. 214: Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio.

H.R. 263: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.

H.R. 303: Mr. SCHRADER.

H.R. 475: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.

H.R. 481: Mr. GOODEN of Texas.

H.R. 603: Ms. BROWN of Ohio.

H.R. 612: Mr. GALLEGU, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 695: Ms. BROWN of Ohio.

H.R. 729: Ms. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. WELCH, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. TRONE, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New

York, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. MATSUI, and Mrs. DINGELL.

H.R. 750: Mr. CRIST.

H.R. 763: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.

H.R. 764: Mr. MCNERNEY.

H.R. 849: Mr. ALLRED.

H.R. 851: Ms. JACOBS of California.

H.R. 962: Ms. NEWMAN.

H.R. 1057: Mr. JEFFRIES and Ms. BOURDEAUX.

H.R. 1179: Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 1235: Mr. BROOKS and Mr. GARBARINO.

H.R. 1241: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.

H.R. 1282: Ms. BOURDEAUX, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, and Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 1297: Ms. CRAIG and Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 1313: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 1332: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 1384: Mr. CROW, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. MELJER, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. BOURDEAUX, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 1437: Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 1558: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 1587: Mr. CROW.

H.R. 1592: Mr. TAYLOR.

H.R. 1593: Mr. EMMER and Mr. COOPER.

H.R. 1648: Mr. MOULTON.

H.R. 1661: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, and Ms. CHU.

H.R. 1667: Ms. JACOBS of California.

H.R. 1676: Mr. MCKINLEY.

H.R. 1735: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut and Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 1784: Mr. RUIZ.

H.R. 1819: Mr. GOLDEN.

H.R. 1959: Ms. STRICKLAND.

H.R. 2050: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 2151: Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN.

H.R. 2192: Mrs. LESKO, Mr. ESPAILLAT, and Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 2230: Mr. RUIZ.

H.R. 2234: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.

H.R. 2307: Mr. BEYER.

H.R. 2311: Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 2328: Mr. PHILLIPS.

H.R. 2362: Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 2372: Ms. MANNING.

H.R. 2433: Mr. GALLAGHER and Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN.

H.R. 2549: Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 2565: Mr. GROTHMAN.

H.R. 2631: Mr. AGUILAR.

H.R. 2724: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 2748: Mr. HUIZENGA, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. BERGMAN, Ms. CHU, Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina, Mr. ELLZEY, and Ms. KELLY of Illinois.

H.R. 2835: Mr. CASTEN.

H.R. 2840: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia and Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.

H.R. 2886: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.

H.R. 2954: Mr. ROSE, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, and Mr. FEENSTRA.

H.R. 3001: Mr. LIEU.

H.R. 3079: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.

H.R. 3093: Miss RICE of New York.

H.R. 3108: Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 3109: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 3150: Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 3293: Ms. BROWN of Ohio.

H.R. 3306: Mr. PFLUGER.

H.R. 3355: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mrs. LURIA, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. CHABOT, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. BERA, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 3402: Mr. HORSFORD.

H.R. 3405: Mr. KAHELE.

H.R. 3465: Mr. HAGEDORN.

H.R. 3511: Mr. CROW and Mr. DELGADO.

H.R. 3571: Ms. JAYAPAL.

H.R. 3602: Mr. RUSH, Ms. BASS, Ms. MENG, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 3611: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 3617: Mr. PETERS and Mr. BOWMAN.

H.R. 3646: Ms. BOURDEAUX.

H.R. 3655: Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 3656: Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. CÁRDENAS, and Mr. SAN NICOLAS.

H.R. 3682: Ms. WILD.

H.R. 3686: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ and Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 3728: Mr. GARBARINO.

H.R. 3783: Ms. SEWELL and Ms. OMAR.

H.R. 3796: Mr. BIGGS.

H.R. 3808: Ms. WILD.

H.R. 3824: Mr. KAHELE.

H.R. 3825: Ms. TLAI.

H.R. 3829: Ms. CRAIG.

H.R. 3876: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. PRESSLEY, and Ms. MENG.

H.R. 3986: Ms. BASS.

H.R. 4021: Mr. MOORE of Utah.

H.R. 4043: Ms. CRAIG, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. LIEU.

H.R. 4071: Mr. MULLIN.

H.R. 4122: Mr. DELGADO and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 4150: Mr. KUSTOFF.

H.R. 4198: Mr. CRIST.

H.R. 4233: Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN.

H.R. 4311: Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. NORCROSS, and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 4366: Mr. CÁRDENAS.

H.R. 4387: Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 4412: Mr. CASTEN and Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 4437: Mr. BACON.

H.R. 4555: Ms. BARRAGÁN.

H.R. 4589: Ms. STANSBURY.

H.R. 4594: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Mr. CÁRDENAS.

H.R. 4601: Mr. GALLAGHER.

H.R. 4640: Mrs. FLETCHER.

H.R. 4721: Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 4811: Ms. ADAMS, Mr. LIEU, and Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 4942: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 4943: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, and Ms. JACOBS of California.

H.R. 4944: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, and Ms. JACOBS of California.

H.R. 4946: Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H.R. 4996: Mr. TURNER.

H.R. 5129: Mr. CORREA, Mr. COSTA, Mr. EVANS, Mr. KIND, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. RYAN, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. CARSON, and Mr. NEWHOUSE.

H.R. 5131: Mr. HIGGINS of New York.

H.R. 5141: Mr. KAHELE, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. COSTA, Ms. BONAMICI, and Mr. CÁRDENAS.

H.R. 5232: Mr. RYAN, Mrs. BUSTOS, and Mr. CARTER of Texas.

H.R. 5249: Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 5302: Mr. DELGADO.

H.R. 5338: Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 5342: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.

H.R. 5352: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 5410: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 5429: Ms. STEVENS and Mr. CARL.

H.R. 5445: Mrs. AXNE and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.

H.R. 5468: Ms. CHU.

H.R. 5502: Mr. RUSH, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. SOTO, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. TIMMONS, and Mr. MCKINLEY.

H.R. 5512: Mr. MCKINLEY.

H.R. 5521: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 5544: Mr. PANETTA.

H.R. 5545: Ms. TITUS and Mr. ALLRED.

H.R. 5555: Mrs. AXNE.

H.R. 5577: Mr. COLE, Mr. PANETTA, and Mr. GOLDEN.

H.R. 5590: Mr. BABIN.

H.R. 5595: Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. CRIST.

- H.R. 5608: Mrs. HARTZLER and Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 5611: Mr. GRIJALVA and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 5613: Mr. BROOKS.
H.R. 5619: Ms. CHENEY.
H.R. 5629: Ms. JACOBS of California and Mr. SIRES.
H.R. 5656: Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, and Mr. CRAWFORD.
H.R. 5735: Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. WALTZ, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. KATKO, and Mr. RESCHENTHALER.
H.R. 5741: Mr. COLE.
H.R. 5754: Mr. BAIRD.
H.R. 5759: Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 5768: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 5770: Miss RICE of New York.
H.R. 5772: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.
H.R. 5779: Ms. MANNING.
H.R. 5793: Mr. CARTER of Georgia.
H.R. 5831: Mrs. CAMMACK and Mr. SCHWEIKERT.
H.R. 5834: Mr. KUSTOFF.
- H.R. 5892: Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. ISSA, and Mr. GOOD of Virginia.
H.R. 5895: Mr. CLINE, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. MOONEY.
H.R. 5897: Ms. MENG and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 5901: Mr. BAIRD.
H.R. 5908: Mr. BROOKS and Mr. JACKSON.
H.R. 5928: Mr. COLE and Mr. RESCHENTHALER.
H.R. 5935: Mrs. MILLER of Illinois.
H.R. 5938: Mr. BAIRD.
H.R. 5958: Ms. BARRAGÁN.
H.R. 5978: Mr. CRAWFORD.
H.R. 5981: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.J. Res. 51: Mr. BACON.
H. Con. Res. 21: Mr. JACKSON.
H. Con. Res. 34: Mr. DONALDS.
H. Res. 119: Ms. STANSBURY.
H. Res. 389: Mr. BAIRD.
H. Res. 404: Mr. COLE, Ms. STEFANIK, and Mr. LEVIN of California.
H. Res. 436: Mr. KAHELE.
H. Res. 443: Mr. LAHOOD.
- H. Res. 762: Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. TITUS, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Ms. CHU.
H. Res. 765: Mr. DONALDS.
H. Res. 770: Mr. JACKSON.
H. Res. 788: Mr. MELJER.
H. Res. 789: Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. BEYER, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. SIRES, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. RYAN, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. NEWMAN, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. AXNE, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. COSTA, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Mr. JONES, and Mr. RUSH.